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One Hundred Years of Learning at
Grand Prairie Seminary and Onarga
Military School, 1863-1963.

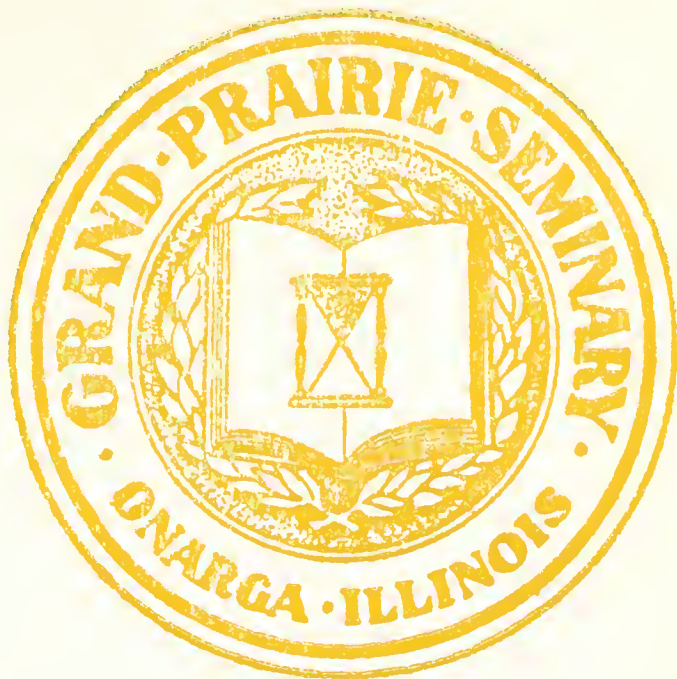
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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

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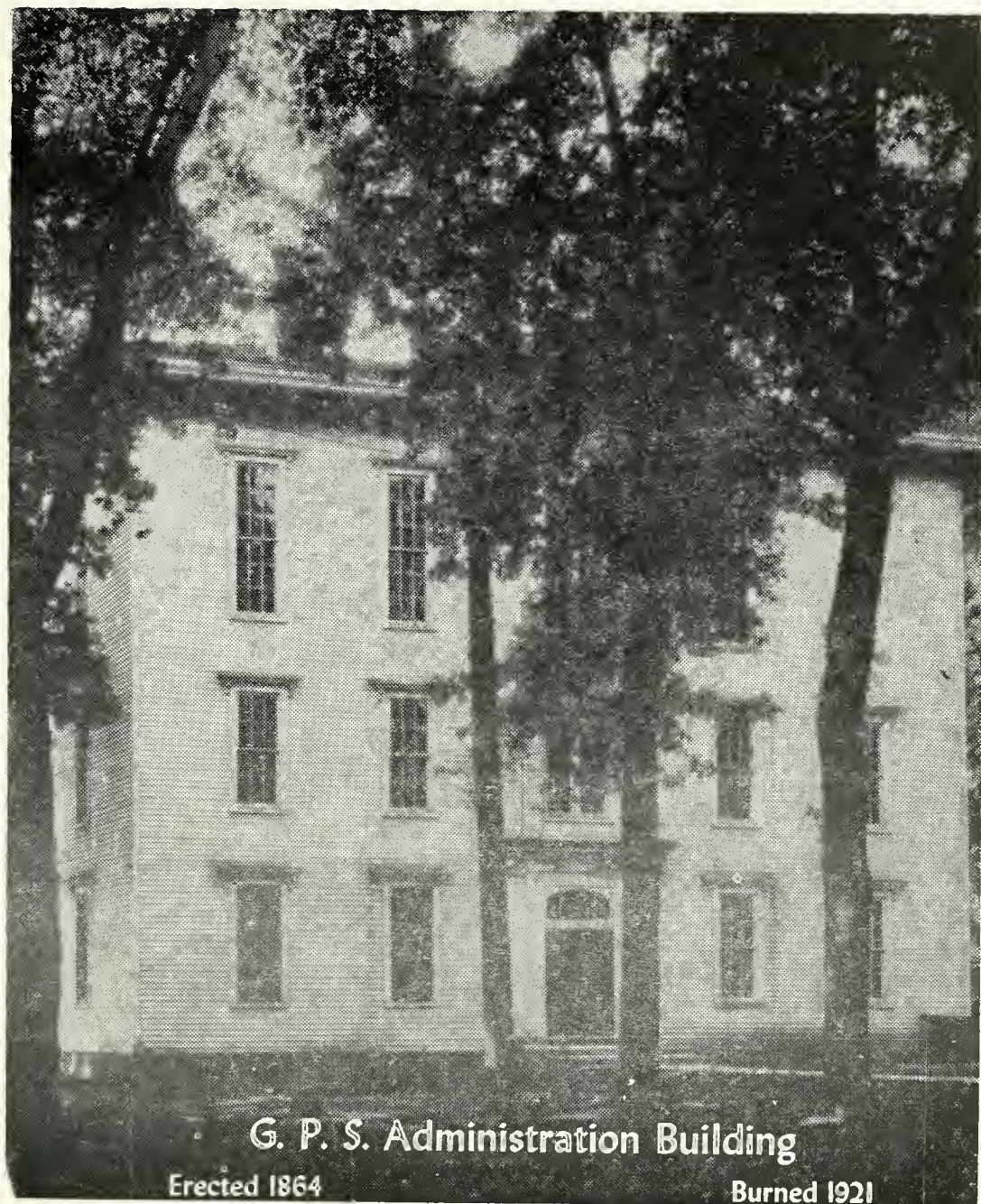
CENTENNIAL



1863

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1963



G. P. S. Administration Building

Erected 1864

Burned 1921

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One Hundred Years of Learning at Grand Prairie Seminary and Onarga Military School

1863 - 1963



HIS BOOKLET has been prepared in connection with the centennial celebration commemorating the sister institutions Grand Prairie Seminary and the Onarga Military School at Onarga, Illinois, October 5 and 6, 1963. May the Lamp of Learning continue to shine brightly on this campus for many generations to come.

T. M. Frazier, Editor

*"Oh how I long to travel back,
And tread again that ancient track!"*

Introduction

In the essay *The Educated Man* the author John Henry Newman states, "He is at home in any society, he has common ground with every class; he knows when to speak and when to be silent; he is able to converse, he is able to listen; he can ask a question pertinently, and gain a lesson seasonably, when he has nothing to impart himself; he is ever ready, yet never in the way; he is a pleasant companion, and a comrade you can depend upon; he knows when to be serious and when to trifle, and he has a sure tact which enables him to trifle with gracefulness and to be serious with effect. He has the repose of mind which lives in itself, while it lives in the world, and which has resources for its happiness at home when it cannot go abroad. He has a gift which serves him in public, and supports him in retirement, without which good fortune is but vulgar, and with which failure and disappointment have a charm."

I have known many, many graduates of Grand Prairie Seminary who have exemplified Newman's "educated man". I feel that my life have been enriched by having known these fine men and women. It has also been our aim to inculcate these qualities in the cadets who have come under our charge here at Onarga Military School. It is our fervent prayer that this campus will continue to produce "the educated man."

Lt. Col. Todd M. Frazier

Dedication

This Centennial booklet is dedicated to the Founders and Builders of Grand Prairie Seminary and the Onarga Military School and to the alumni and matriculates of both institutions who lost their lives in the service of their country.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go:
keep her; for she is thy life.

Proverbs

Acknowledgment

This book would have been impossible to publish without the help of all the people whose names appear opposite the titles in the Table of Contents and on the by-lines heading each article. Grateful acknowledgement is given to them for a job well done and to all others who, in any way, have helped to make this book possible. I am especially indebted to Marvin Craig and Kenneth Ingham for the aid they have given me, to Alice Wright and Jack Sticnecker for their part in collecting pictures which were used both in the book and in the historical display. Much credit is due Mr. Charles J. Lotz, Library Historian, Conference Historical Society for the research paper, part of which is incorporated in other articles.

The Editor

Part I

Grand
Prairie
Seminary

FOUNDING AND CHARTER

By Major D. L. Reed

The majority of the early immigrants coming to Onarga were from localities in the New England area where education was valued as the greatest asset to erecting and maintaining a democratic form of government. These early settlers did not hesitate to carry out their convictions concerning education. Such beliefs no doubt prompted the organization of the Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College.

In the spring of 1863, representatives from several villages in territories adjoining Onarga, such as Kankakee, Chatsworth, Buckley, Middleport, (now Watseka) and others, met at Onarga to decide upon the type of educational institution needed; its location, and should the Methodist Episcopal Church establish it.

Rev. P. T. Rhodes, Methodist Minister, circuit rider and presiding elder of the Middleport district, with other Methodist ministers of the district, lay men and others interested in the advancement of educational advantages, were responsible for the movement to establish such a school. Thus Grand Prairie Seminary came into being and was incorporated as such on July 18, 1863.

On February 16, 1865 a new charter was issued to Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College.

The charter states in part that, "here is created and established at Onarga in the County of Iroquois in this state an institution for the instruction of youth in the various branches of Literature and Science, the useful Arts, Music and the learned and foreign Languages" . . . "That P. T. Rhodes, Charles H. Wood, Winslow Woods, Ransom B. Pangborn, Samuel Harper, J. D. Bennett, Dr. John W. Hinkley, William C. Riggs, T. B. Hall, C. D. Chapman, K. J. Crack, W. G. McDowell, David McWilliams, Dr. Stewart, Thomas Vennum, Fredrick Felker, John W. Flowers, Elijah Bunnell and such other persons . . . associated with them are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate by the name and style of The Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College" . . . "These persons named shall constitute the first board of trustees". . .

"There shall be elected, at the end of each collegiate year, by the stockholders, — six trustees to take the place of those who go out of office, provided that a majority of the trustees shall be at all times members of the Methodist Episcopal Church—every person shall be entitled to one vote for every twenty-five dollars he has paid."

"The corporation may issue certificates of Scholarship, limited or perpetual upon such terms and under such conditions as they may determine" . . .

"The said institution in all its departments shall be open to all persons of such age and qualifications as shall be prescribed by the by-laws and rules of said corporation and the profession of any particular



religious faith shall not be required." . . . "All persons however may be suspended or expelled from said institution, whose habits are idle or vicious or whose moral character is bad."

"The property, real and personal of said College shall be exempt from any taxation or assessments for State, County, Township, Road, City or School purposes while owned and occupied by the College for College or School purposes."

There is no concrete evidence that the Methodist Conference, as an organization, gave any immediate support to the school except that it was mainly sponsored by Methodist Ministers.

However in a short time the catalogues refer to the religious instruction in this manner:

"The Seminary is under the charge of the Central Illinois Conference. Each student is required to attend religious services on the Sabbath, either in the Seminary Chapel, or at some place designated by student, parent or guardian."

Still later catalogues state:

"The institution is under the watch-care of the Central Conference. Our aim, though not sectarian, is to teach the great principles of christianity by precept and example."

Later action was taken to join the Forward Movement and Central Illinois Conferences which was a movement to create funds with which to aid the Methodist schools of the Conferences.

During the years of 1879 to 1890 the school was referred to in its catalogues as Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College and Conservatory of Music. Nothing can be found to verify that it was ever incorporated as such. In all probability the name was adapted for use on the catalogues as a means of advertising that extra outstanding department of the school.

THE EARLY YEARS

By Charles Randolph

The fires of enthusiasm and dedication burned intensely in the new Trustees and their officers. Even though they had no building these officials decided to start the new school by holding classes in the M.E. Church building in October of 1863. The new faculty consisted of three members, Rev. George W. Gray, the first principal and Mrs. Gray his wife, who was the professor of language and natural sciences. Mr. J. E. Smith instructed the pupils in grade school subjects and also taught vocal music. The tuition charge ranged from \$2.00 to \$12.00 per term depending upon the courses selected.

The founding of Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College filled an urgent need and the trustees appreciated the importance of having their own building. Soon after the school was started in 1863 they constructed a temporary building on the church lot to serve until a more suitable building could be built. This temporary building was a wooden structure one story high and fourteen by forty feet in size. Now the Seminary was truly started with its own small building, a one room school.

The Seminary outgrew this small first building and in 1864 a campaign was started to raise the money for a new Recitation Hall. The local citizens of Onarga pledged \$7,000 and construction was started on this building to cost about \$10,000. It was to be a three story building and forty by sixty

feet in area. It contained five recitation rooms, two literary society rooms, a library, a laboratory and a chapel to occupy the entire third floor. This chapel was to be later turned into a commercial department.

The student body had now grown to 136 students and the faculty had increased to eight members. Added to the three faculty members in 1863 were Rev. O. W. Pollard professor of commercial science, Mrs. Sarah Marston, Preceptress, Mrs. Louis A. Crawford teacher of instrumental music, Miss Fattie Packer teacher of German, Mr. Charles H. Wood commercial law and Mr. J. E. Smith in the grade school department. "In the fall of 1864 the school was well organized with a full official board, a complete corps of efficient teachers, a sharp and energetic financial agent and a fine new building located in the central part of a rich farming district, rapidly increasing in population, and under the patronage of a most powerful church organization." (1)

(1) Beckwith's History of Iroquois, published in 1880

The space required for music study had increased and in the fall of 1880 a building was leased from the Congregational Church to be used as a Music Building. They installed six pianos and with a large organ in this building and a distinguished professor of music, G. Frank Page, who had completed two years of study in Leipsic, Germany was put in charge. Vocal culture, theory and music



The information for this section was secured from Beckwith's "History of Iroquois County", from the articles and material of Charles Warnock of Onarga and material collected by Opal Randolph Arndt of Watseka, Illinois.



composition were prominent features of the music department. Courses in French, Latin and Greek were added to the curriculum and the school had now grown to 327 students from the original student body of 36 in 1863.

The housing and feeding of 300 students had increased to a heavy problem for the City of Onarga and a Ladies Boarding Hall was constructed to solve that problem. This brick building 48 by 78 feet and three stories high was erected in 1892. It had accommodations for sixty young ladies. Each room had modern furnishings and steam heat. Room cost from 40c to 60c per week and meals were furnished for \$2.00 per week. Gentlemen were permitted to take meals in the boarding hall for the same \$2.00 per week.

This building had been enlarged and remodeled several times and now serves for the dormitory of the Onarga Military School.

The cultural subjects of music, art and elocution were given great emphasis from the beginning of the school. Next a brick and stone building 47 by 78 feet and two stories high was built in 1892 to serve as the Auditorium and Conservatory. The first floor contained music, art and literary society rooms and the second floor contained a chapel that would seat 700 people. This auditorium was to serve as a center of culture for the school and the Onarga people. Famous speakers and gifted artists were to thrill audiences for a long number of years. Students were required to attend Church twice each Sunday and every school day in the chapel. Grand Prairie Seminary with a fine Recitation building, a Ladies Boarding Hall and a new Auditorium now ranked fourth in the education field for schools of this type.

During the first years of Grand Prairie Seminary it gave courses both on the high school level and

the classical level. It granted degrees of "Master of English Literature" and "Mistress of English Literature". The degree of "Master or Mistress of Accounts" was also awarded. The Seminary later reduced its curriculum to high school level subjects and in 1901 was affiliated as a preparatory seminary with Northwestern University. Each diploma was endorsed by Northwestern. "Military drill was introduced and a uniform consisting of a cap, jacket and trousers could be made to order for \$10.50". (2) The school was chartered as "Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College". It used that heading until 1890 and after that time the name was shortened to "Grand Prairie Seminary".

(2) Article by Charles Warnock in Onarga Leader-Review

Mr. Charles Warnock was authorized by the Board of Trustees to raise five thousand dollars to construct a much needed gymnasium. They had purchased a field one block south of the Auditorium where they had planned to build this gymnasium. "While there is a good field three blocks south of the Auditorium for Spring and Fall outdoor work, as baseball, which is limited to a few players, there is nothing to give the needed exercise and recreation during the winter months." (3) The successful campaign to raise the money enabled the Seminary to construct a new gymnasium costing \$10,000 in 1908. This gymnasium provided a full size basketball floor, with equipment for physical culture, a combination balcony and running track and showers and suitable lockers in the basement for physical culture classes and athletic teams. A domestic science kitchen and model dining room was also located in the south part of the basement.

(3) "Seminary Breeze" the school monthly for May 1907

Several families have sent many of their members to G.P.S. There is a memorial bench on the

campus given by Dr. Walter Meents of Chicago to honor his five sons and five daughters who attended G.P.S. The writer of this article, his mother, one brother and three sisters all graduated from the Seminary and his father attended G.P.S.

The life of every private school is beset with financial needs and crisis. Grand Prairie Seminary had many loyal friends and alumni and we wish to give a partial list of those who came to her aid in times of need.

1864—Loyal Onarga Citizens, \$7,000

1869—D. K. Pierson of Chicago,
\$500 for library fund

1872—M.E. Church Centennial Fund, \$16,500

1900—Hon. W. A. Rankin of Onarga
contributed \$25,000 which sparked
a campaign to raise \$100,000

1908—C. H. Warnock organized a drive to
raise \$10,000

Through the years:

Dr. Ward, \$15,000

The Bunnell estate - a large farm

D. K. Pierson, \$20,000

Mr. Harvey, \$1,200

1912—W. A. Rankin, \$10,000

1912—Trustees of G.P.S., \$10,000

1917—W. A. Rankin, \$50,000

1917—Friends of the Seminary, \$50,000

The Presidents or Principals of Grand Prairie Seminary:

1863—Rev. George W. Gray

1865—Rev. O. W. Pollard

1865—Rev. N. C. Lewis

1866—Rev. O. W. Pollard

1868—Prof. C. Loza Smith

1868—Rev. W. C. Knopp

1869—Prof. W. J. Barnes

1870—Prof. H. C. Burch

1871—Rev. J. T. Dickinson

1877—Rev. John W. Robinson

1878—Rev. Eli McClish

1884—Rev. S. VanPelt

1893—Rev. O. T. Dwinell (acting)

1900—Rev. Frank G. Barnes

1905—Henry Hoag Frost

The enrollment started with 36 students in 1863 and gradually grew to a peak of 655 in 1904. As accredited high schools were being built in nearby communities the enrollment gradually grew smaller. In 1916-17 the school had shrunk to 55 students. In 1917 the school gained a new lease on life by being changed to a boy's military school. Now "Onarga Military School" no longer a youngster, but a school of forty six years maturity, carries on to a glowing future.



LIFE IN A GIRL'S DORM

By Marie Beardslee '13

Life in the Girls' Dormitory never was dull. Until the year 1910, rooms were at a premium. Girls from many states, as far as the Canadian Border to the north, Montana and California to the west, New York to the east, and South Carolina to the south, lived together and shared their interests in this large three-story building, their school-home. Later, when accredited four-year high schools developed throughout the nation, fewer girls enrolled in the Seminary.

Miss Florence Wallace, preceptress of the Dormitory and head of the English Department, was loved by all the girls. Her friendliness and understanding of teen-agers was a strong influence in keeping in attendance at the school numerous girls who, because of homesickness, might, otherwise, have dropped out. After giving many years of leadership and guidance to the girls and of teaching Senior English, Miss Wallace returned to her home in Chicago Heights, where she spent the remaining years of her teaching career in the high school from which she graduated.

Other teachers, who lived in the dormitory during the years 1909-1913, were the following: Miss Noyes, teacher of Latin and German. Miss Noyes left the Seminary in 1913 in order to continue graduate study at Northwestern University. She later received a Ph. D. degree from the University of California and according to recent reports, is teaching in a California woman's college.

Miss Sarah Seabrook, an outstanding teacher of art, was a lady of fine wit and culture.



Miss Elizabeth Rainbow, a brilliant student and teacher of Latin and history, saw the humorous side of every situation. After leaving the Seminary she taught in schools in and near St. Louis.

Miss Lois Johnson, home economics teacher and matron of the dormitory, very efficiently handled the dormitory menus and other house-keeping problems. We have been informed that she retired to her home town, Bloomington, Illinois.

Other teachers lived in the dormitory and exerted priceless influence in their contacts with the girls. Time has not diminished the gratitude of those who were privileged to receive instruction from and enjoy the association and guidance of such fine women.

Until 1910, the majority of boys ate their meals at the dormitory. "Boys Clubs" were organized



and, finally, the dining-room was occupied by girls, alone. We students enjoyed singing during the meals. Especially popular were "Old G. P. S., Dear G. P. S." and the football songs. When Mrs. Isaacson, a German instructor, led in singing, "O, du lieber Augustine," or "Du bist wie eine Blume," the rafters rang.

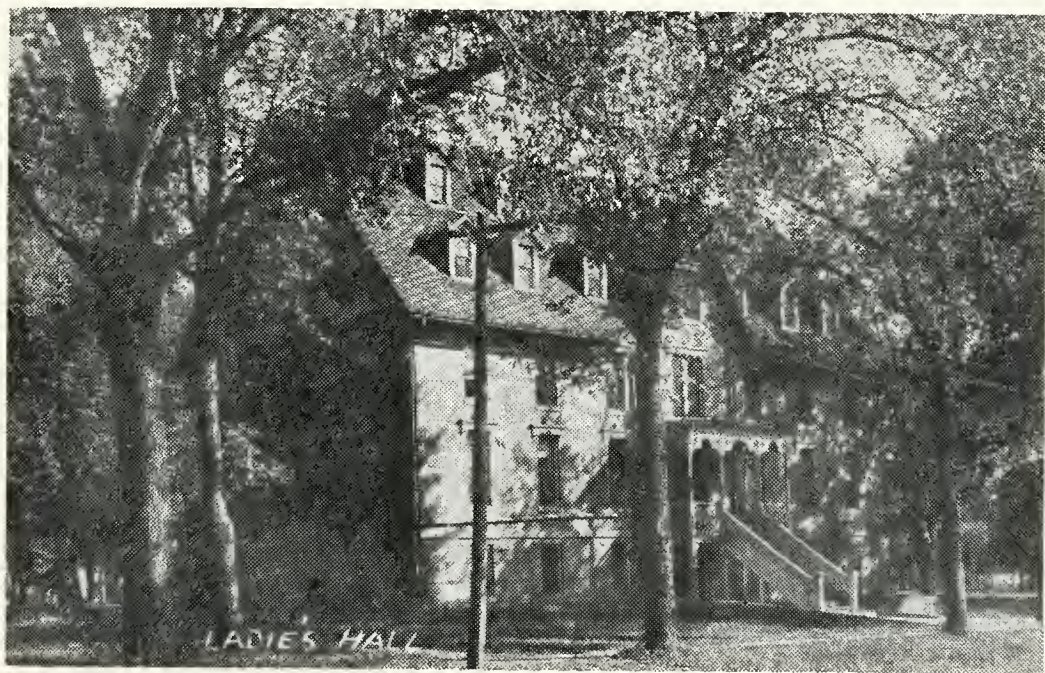
The social hour in the living room, from seven until seven-thirty o'clock in the evening, was another enjoyable period. The informality of the association of teachers and girls during this time contributed a priceless influence in holding the character and ambitions of the girls. Sufficient entertainment always was provided, in the dormitory and on the campus, to keep everyone interested there. Many homes in the town were open to the girls, also, and the hospitality extended by the town students and their parents and friends, developed friendships which have continued to the present time.

Dancing was forbidden at any parties or gatherings on the school campus. For some girls, reared in Methodist homes where dancing was frowned upon, this was not a great deprivation; but for others, this restriction was "just too much." And so our preceptress frequently was busy, after dinner, breaking up groups as they attempted to waltz or two-step to Sunday-school tunes.

Card-playing also was "taboo". One rainy Sunday afternoon, a lady, passing the dormitory saw, through a window, a hand holding cards and reported the incident to President Frost. Each girl interviewed individually, next day, in Dr. Frost's office, was properly reprimanded and warned that the offense, if repeated, would be reported to the parents. For sometime, after that session, the girls walked chalk.

Some girls spent the week-ends at their homes and brought back delicious food which they shared with the other girls. Thus, Monday night, from nine until ten o'clock, usually was busy with "room parties" when the girls pooled their "goodies". Occasionally, after the teachers had retired, a midnight snack was enjoyed in the creepy fourth-floor attic. The "goodies" brought also consisted, sometimes, of food seized in a raid of the dormitory pantry.

The writer does not remember the names of all the girls who lived in the dormitory during the years she was there and who are pictured below. Among those are the following, however: Osa Lindsay, Lucille Corser, Opal Cavitt, Effie Stevens, Faye Elliot, Elsie Parcell, Mattie Inlsster, Pauline Wolgast, Eva Wolgast, Edna McNaught, Gertrude Smith, Elsa Larson, Irene Scoggins, Effie Stevens, Lucia Jones, Alta Meents, and Marie Beardslee.



STUDENT LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

F. S. Johnson '11

While rambling through some old letters, I ran across one from Dr. Frost dated October 1907. He had heard that I was interested in their commercial course, which he described as the best in the state.

My interest in this course probably originated from F. B. Nordwahl, who persuaded me to return with him while he was at home for the 1907 Thanksgiving vacation. We roomed together for a while that first year with a Dr. Newell and earned our room rent by taking care of his horses. Later we moved to a larger room, an upstairs room at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Huffman. We furnished our own coal, which we hauled in a wheelbarrow from the coal yard. My room-mate worked for Mrs. Search, and I worked for Dr. Search in his dental office.

Like many of the other out-of-town men students, I took my meals for the first two years in the basement of the girls' dormitory. Mrs. Clark was in charge of the dining hall at that time.

In 1908 my room-mate left to go to Whittier, California, to work in an orange packing plant for Mr. Erksine, a former teacher at G.P.S. I moved to what we called the Hull house, at present the site of an oil station. Here my room-mate was Harry Leigh. Across the hall from us were Henry Morel and Fred Sellers. This was our home until we graduated in 1911.

Occasionally Fred would bring his Dad's Maxwell. Before we could load up the Maxwell with girls from the Dorm, we had to convince Miss Wallace, the girls' housemother that everything was all right. It was no uncommon sight to see the old Maxwell loaded down with girls on the fenders, in the rumble seat, and on the running boards.

About 1909 we formed what we called the Johnson Club. Mrs. Johnson, our cook, lived about a block from the school. We bought the provisions from Hull's Grocery, Townsend and Olson's, and from Fred's Dad, a wholesale grocery salesman for a Chicago firm. From him we bought a five gallon



can of catsup. I think we put catsup on everything we ate.

Members of the Club at that time were: Henry Morel and Fred Sellers, Clifton, Illinois; Loren Sage, some town in Indiana; Roy Shafer, Loda; Ernest Truby, Woodland; Frank Weishaar, Brook, Indiana; and LeRoy Johnson and F. S. Johnson, Donovan, Illinois. The Club disbanded after about five years.

Estimated expenses for a 38 week term averaged about \$225. This includes tuition, \$64.00, board \$95.00, room \$35.00, books, about \$12.00, incidentals, about \$5.00 to \$10.00, as well as admission to athletic contests and lecture courses, subscription to "The Breeze", the school paper, and library privileges. Laundry costs were about \$10.00.

In spite of the fact that athletics will be treated in another chapter of this booklet, I can't omit an incident that occurred while I was athletic manager. We arrived in Chicago to catch a train to go to Culver. Some of us got on the wrong train but soon discovered that it didn't stop at Plymouth, Indiana. Suitcases, equipment, and players came flying from the moving train. We got our ticket money back, caught another train about a mile from the 63rd Street station, and were met at a cross road only slightly late for the game.

Two other incidents are clearly recalled. While on a school picnic via hay racks, we had ringside seats for viewing Haley's Comet while we were returning to school. (Editor's note: You boys and gals must have kept pretty late hours in those days. If I'm not mistaken, Haley's Comet was visible in Ohio about 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning.)

The other incident found the entire student body hiking to Gilman to see Lt. Brookens land his biplane in a corn field.

School life at G.P.S. ended for 37 seniors on June 8, 1911. Unlike today's senior trips to New York, New Orleans, or the Ozarks, our trip was a camping trip along the Kankakee and Rock Creek rivers.



CURRICULUM

Opal Randolph Arndt '10

The first classes in the new school, organized as Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College, were held during October 1863. The studies pursued at the Seminary were divided into Departments with a professor at the head of each.

FIRST FACULTY:

1. Mental & Moral Philosophy & Natural Science:
Rev. George W. Gray, Principal
 - a. Natural Science: Physiology, Botany, Zoology, Physics, Physical Geography, Geology.
2. Latin, Greek, and Literature:
Mrs. Sarah B. Gray
3. Commercial Science and Higher Mathematics:
Rev. O. W. Pollard
 - a. High Mathematics: Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Astronomy
(Rev. Pollard was also the first Librarian.)
 - b. Lecturer upon Commercial Law:
Charles H. Wood
4. Normal Departments: J. E. Smith, Principal
5. Modern Languages:
 - a. French: Mrs. Sarah F. Marston
(Mrs. Marston also taught drawing.)
 - b. German: Miss Hattie Packer
6. Music:
 - a. Instructor in Instrumental Music:
Mrs. L. A. Crawford
 - b. Vocal Music: J. E. Smith

A preparatory course was offered for students who wished to follow the Classical, Scientific, or Normal Courses. The school year was divided into Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms. No student could take less than three nor more than four studies at one time without the approval of the faculty. Courses listed for 1863 were as follows:

Classical

FRESHMAN CLASS

FALL—Algebra, Latin I, Greek I, English Composition, Roman History

WINTER—Algebra, Caesar, Greek I, History of Greece

SPRING—Algebra, Sallust, Greek II, History of Greece

SOPHOMORE CLASS

FALL—Virgil, Zenophons. Anabasis, Geometry, Zoology

WINTER—Virgil, Homer's Illiad, Trigonometry, Conic Sections, Natural Philosophy

SPRING—Cicero's Orations, Homer's Illiad, Analytical Geometry, Natural Philosophy

JUNIOR CLASS

FALL—Horace, Demosthenes DeCorona, Surveying & Navigation, Botany

WINTER—Surveying & Navigation, Chemistry, Elements of Criticism, Mineralogy, Universal History



SPRING—Geology, Physiology, Political Grammar,
Political Economy

SENIOR CLASS

FALL—Geology, History of United States,
Astronomy, Rhetoric

WINTER—Intellectual Philosophy, Evidence of
Christianity, History of United States, Rhetorical
Exercises

SPRING—Intellectual Philosophy, Moral Science,
Laws of Nations, History of United States.

The Scientific Course was the same as the Classical except for Languages. French or German could be substituted for Greek, if desired. The first catalogue stated "While we strenuously advocate a thorough development of the mind of a woman, yet we do not regard it as a necessary consequence in order to accomplish the same desirable end that she should master the same laborious course of study; nevertheless we deprecate the idea of graduating young ladies with classic honors, when they have substituted Music, French, etc., for the languages or higher mathematics. The Scientific Course is arranged to accommodate such as cannot take the Classical Course."

Normal Department

The courses are arranged for the "purpose of making thorough and systematic teachers. Teaching has assumed the dignity of a profession and it demands a special preparation. It provides all the requisites for a teacher in our common school." "It includes all the studies in which one must pass an examination to secure a first grade certificate. There will be a constant aim to present to the student the What, the How, and the Why of Teaching."

FIRST YEAR:

FALL—Practical Arithmetic, Mental Arithmetic,
Orthography, Etymology, Elocutionary Exercise,
Geography

WINTER—Practical Arithmetic, Intellectual Arithmetic, Etymological Parsing, Geography

SPRING — Practical Arithmetic, Intellectual Arithmetic, Analysis & Syntax, Penmanship

SECOND YEAR:

FALL—Business Arithmetic, Prosody & Syntactical Parsing, History of United States, Penmanship

WINTER—Elementary Algebra, Rhetoric, English Language, Theory & Practice of Teaching

SPRING — English Language, Natural Philosophy, Essays - Daily upon theory & practice of teaching & government of schools

Commercial Course

The first courses in the Commercial College included Penmanship, Bookkeeping (Single and Double entry), Theoretical Arithmetic, Grammar, Letter-writing ("Embracing exercises in the use of proper business expressions, punctuation, manner of folding"), Form of Business and Legal Papers, Business Arithmetic, Commercial History, Commercial Laws, and Political Grammar.

By 1877 the branches of business "represented in our Commercial courses were Farming, Contractor, Commission, Mechanical, Stockbroker, Professional, Jobbing, Wholesale, Retail, Manufacturing, Administrator, Shipping, Private Banking, National Banking." "The length of time required to thoroughly master this course must necessarily vary with acquirements, maturity and discipline of mind, personal application and business habits of the student." As indication of the growing popularity of the Commercial Course, in 1877 there were two graduates in Literature Department and eleven in the Commercial College of Grand Prairie Seminary.

In 1892 Courses of Study were listed as 1 - Classical, 2 - Latin - Scientific, 3 - Scientific, 4 - Normal, 5 - Business, and 6 - Music. The Classical had the same number of terms as given in the Preparatory School of Northwestern University, plus additional work in Science, Mathematics, Metaphysics, and English Literature. The Latin - Scientific omitted Greek, and made Latin elective with German or French. The Scientific omitted all languages except English.

About this time the school offered a Summer Term for 1 - Review of Common Branches, 2 - Advance work for Teachers, 3 - Commerce, and 4 - Elocution and Oratory.

The faculty at this period (1892-1893) were:

Mental & Moral Science:

Rev. S. VanPelt, President

Latin and German:

Miss Phoebe VanBenschoten, Preceptress

Natural Science and Higher Mathematics:

Charles E. Pickett

Normal Department:

J. J. Ferguson

History & Literature:

Miss Helen M. Gregory

Commercial College:

Nathan Lee Richmond, Principal

Piano, Organ, Theory & Musical History:

C. W. Best, Director of Music

Voice Culture & Sight Reading:

Miss Nellie Rogers

Violin & Viola:

Miss Theodora Morgan

Painting, Drawing, & Crayon:

Miss Miriam Maloney

During the early 1900's Semesters, rather than the Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms, were adopted. A list of the 1904-1905 faculty indicates the range of courses.

Ethics & Psychology:

Rev. Francis George Barnes, Principal

English:

Miss Margaret Chesney, Preceptress

Greek & Latin:

Miss Frances Rawlins, Librarian

Mathematics & Science:

A. Ray Toothaker

Germany, History, Civics:

Miss Martha Rogers Egley

School of Pedagogy:

Edgar Pachard, Director

School of Commerce:

Stephen D. VanBenthuyssen, Director

Bookkeeping & Penmanship:

Henry Ferdinand Stachling

Shorthand & Typewriting:

George Edward Spera and Flora Elma Lane

School of Music

(Piano, Harmony, Musical History):

Miss Bertha A. Perry, Director

Assistant Piano:

Miss Florence Edna Shearer

Vocal Music & Musical History:

Miss Clara K. Sheean

School of Art:

Miss Gwendolin M. Watkins, Director

School of Oratory:

Miss Grace M. Gilbert, Director

Elocution & Physical Culture:

Miss Kathryn Carter

From the founding of Grand Prairie Seminary, the writing of original essays and orations was stressed. During the early years, various prizes were given for these efforts.

Faculty Prize - Best Essay

President's Prize - Best Oration

Elocution Prize - Best Declamation

Botany Prize - Best Herbarium

(50 specimens required)

Later, contests were arranged for the delivery of these original productions. In 1903 the Gifford Oratorical Contest for Men was established. This was changed to Hull Contest in 1910. Winners were:

<i>Year</i>	<i>First Place</i>	<i>Second Place</i>
1908	Vernon Essington	Henry Babcock
1909	Merle Wright	Henry Babcock
1910	Herman Hueni	Roy Shaefer
1911	Roy Schaefer	Laurimer Henry
1912	Ernest Godfrey	K. S. Khedroo
1913	K. S. Khedroo	Howard Reed

In addition, the men participated in an Inter-Academic Oratorical League composed of eight academies in and around Chicago. Grand Prairie Seminary won first place in 1908 with Harry Garner, second place in 1910 with Merle Wright, and second place in 1911 with Roy Shaefer.

This same group of academies also participated in Inter-Scholastic Debate. The Seminary Debating Team of Hueni, Essington, and Henry won first place in 1910.

The Durham Oratorical Contest for Women was established in 1904, based upon original productions relating to the general subject "Women as a Factor in World's Progress". Winners were:

<i>Year</i>	<i>First Place</i>	<i>Second Place</i>
1904	Kathryn Carter	Bessie Wilcox
1905	Ida Brown	Hilda Campbell
1905	Helen Chubbuck	Isabelle Perry
1907	Myrtle Allison	Marian Hollmeyer
1908	Blanche Davidson	Clara Cook
1909	Grace Williams	June Molyneaux
1910	Opal Randolph	Hattie King
1911	Florence Godfriaux	Irene Scoggin

(Apparently no further contests were held after this year.)

* * *

Source of material for this report was taken from various catalogues issued by Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College.

In 1909, when Henry Hoag Frost was President, Don C. Allen was in charge of Athletics, Miss Penelope taught Domestic Science and Physical Culture of Women, and Robert B. Shirk was in charge of Oratory and Debate.

THE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE OF GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY

Grace (Williams) Tobey '10

features. Delegates are sent each year to Lake Geneva assemblies and to conventions. Christian young people have practical training in Epworth League and Christian Endeavor."

The social life of the Seminary can hardly be separated from the intellectual and religious life, as all were purposely combined. The church, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Epworth League and the literary societies all had their social features.

In 1864 the Chrestomathian Literary Society, with its program of debate, extemporaneous speaking, essay writing and parliamentary law, was organized for men. A society for Commercial students soon followed. In 1870 the Athenian Society was organized for both ladies and gentlemen, "affording social culture and intellectual discipline." The Hypathian society for women existed at an early date. In the 1890's the Philaethian and Lincolnian societies were organized, and, with the Chrestomatheans existed throughout the life of the Seminary. As stated in the 1877 annual these societies were of a serious nature. "They accomplished a great work of discipline in their appropriate field, which will very materially aid in the preparation of students for active lives."

Other events of the year which had social features were: the strawberry breakfast given each spring by the Y.W.C.A., the Athletic Fair held in the old auditorium, the lecture course, parties in the girls' dormitory, football games, and roller skating in the gymnasium during the later years.

During the pre-movie and pre-radio days much of the social line of the Seminary was created by the students themselves, and, although dancing and card playing were strictly forbidden, the participants enjoyed the preparation for, and the performance of, various social activities.

Grand Prairie Seminary was founded under the charge of the Central Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church in 1863.

The following quotations and much of the information were taken from various annuals of the Seminary.

"The aim of the school, though not sectarian, is to teach the great principles of Christianity by precept and example. As the self government of anyone follows a religious life, that end is expected in this school to be the legitimate fruit of the excellent moral and religious tone which pervades the life of both faculty and students. The principles of Christianity are constantly inculcated."

Students are expected to attend the church of their preference and daily chapel. A weekly student's prayer meeting is open to all. In the early days of the school, attendance was expected at frequent lectures on moral or religious subjects during the term or on Sunday afternoons.

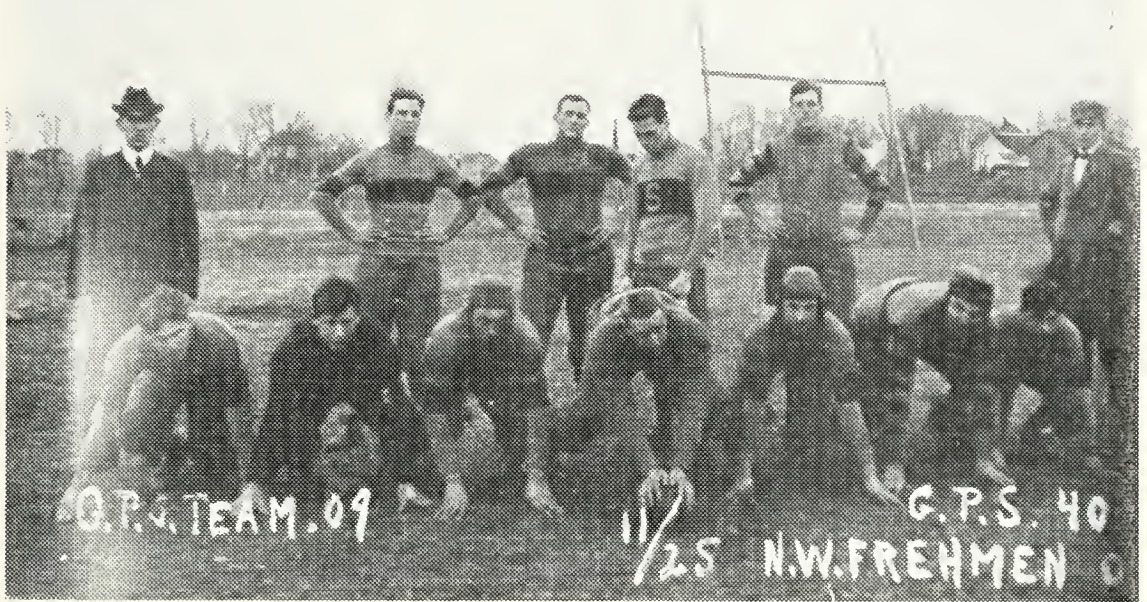
The moral standards of 1872-1873 are expressed in the annual of that date: "All entering school will be expected to observe carefully and conscientiously the printed regulations always posted in one of the halls; also such as the teachers may see fit to compose. We desire reason and conscience to be great safeguards against all disorderly or immoral conduct."

Later, in the 1901 annual, a more concise moral and religious code was expressed. "The Seminary is a school and not a reformatory. Students will do as they please, so long as they please to do right. If any are not willing to conform to customs of a well regulated Christian community, their parents will be asked to call them home."

The 1901 annual stated: "The Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. are strong factors in the school. Bible study and religious training are the principal



THE GREAT 1909 FOOTBALL TEAM



Onarga Paper - 1909

SEASON CLOSES

What has been the most successful football season for the Seminary for many years, and possibly ever, closed with the Thanksgiving game with the Northwestern University Freshmen, when the Sem nearly tripled its former score with this team, beating them 40 to 0.

We have said all along that this year's team was a good one and we are glad that now we can say we told you so after the season has closed so successfully for them.

We certainly are proud of our fellows and their coach, for it has been their endeavor all the season to give the best exhibition of football possible, with hard practice and honorable clean sport. We find absolutely nothing to say against football as played by the Seminary's team for they have acted the gentlemen in every instance and have come out at the end of the season thoroughly disciplined, both in body and temper. We know that this year has meant a great deal to many of the team and never will forget the hard knocks and the strenuous daily training they had to take to win the final victory, that of a clean and successful year's work.

The team is now in splendid physical condition and not a single accident of any kind has left its mark on the members of the squad. The accident which Captain Hill had in the Illinois Preps game was not a serious one on account of his excellent physical condition, a requirement absolutely indispensable in football.

With eight games this season the Seminary has won seven of them, losing one to the Culver Mili-

tary Academy by the lowest score, ever given by the Seminary to Culver. Even this school, which has long been invincible to the Sem's forces, we are certain could not have withstood them later in the season or upon home grounds. But this was not possible so we are making the best of it.

The only points against them otherwise were from Forrest, the first game of the season, when the newly organized team hardly realized what football was.

The other games were unquestionably victories for the Sem, the scores being as follows:

Seminary 52	Forrest	6
Seminary 0	Culver	12
Seminary 67	Charleston Normal	0
Seminary 14	N. W. Freshmen	0
Seminary 28	Illinois Prep	0
Seminary 51	Pontiac	0
Seminary 30	Illinois Prep	0
Seminary 40	N. W. Freshmen	0
Total points for Sem 282		
Points for other teams 18		

We cannot give a thoroughly reliable report of the work of each member on the team, owing to our inability, but we are able to recognize the splendid work of Captain Hill, who as quarterback has shown a wonderful knowledge of football, and still more marked ability to do the right things at the right time. His runs down the field have been rare treats to admirers of football in its spectacular and possibly most difficult forms. His generalship has been keenly felt by the opposing teams for he



The line-up was as follows:

Allen	re	Throsen	le
Truby	rt	Bell	lt
Speck	rg	McVickler	lg
Essington	c	Davy	c
Talbott	lg	Robbins	rg
Sage	lt	Wandrac	rt
Soucic	le	Lamke	re
Hill	qb	Healy	qb
Ottmuller	rhb	Crowe	lhb
Walker	lhb	Johnson	rhb
Schnurr	fb	Wurtz	fb

invariably found the weak point. He was especially successful in working that pretty play the double pass, which was a great "mystifier" to other teams.

Louis Schnurr, the smashing full back and Big Sage have played with unusual skill. In fact we have never seen any better ball than they have put up. These three fellows could make any team they wanted too, we'll bet a hat on it.

Essington is a good center and Speck a cracking good guard. Soucie, Truby and Ottmuller, new men at the game this year have proved to be stars and with the added experience of years and training will more than hold their own in any line-up.

Walker's punting and kicking have been the admiration of everyone, and while it has not been absolutely necessary in many cases this year to resort to punting, yet invariably his lifts have moved the team from any possible danger. He seems to have the thing down so neatly that you can't solve the puzzle at all, and don't try to, but just stand back and applaud him.

Of Allen and Oxley we can only give praise for their work. Cammack and Cole, two stars of the early part of the season did a great deal, if only giving some of the newer ones the benefit of their skill. We liked them both and admire their ability as players.

Professor Allen has worked hard, but not so hard as formerly, for he has been so fortunate as having enough experienced men to greatly share the burden of coaching a winning team. However, we do not wish to minimize his work, for he has stood by them faithfully and loyally, and certainly deserves great credit.

Of the game on Thursday we need not say a great deal for we think every one in town was there. Anyhow it was a great victory, for the Northwestern freshmen have had the benefit of two weeks coaching from Coach Horr, the regular varsity coach. But the team didn't seem to have it in them and were not able to stand the strain in the superb way the Sem did.

Touchdowns - Schnurr 3, Walker 2, Hill 1, Sage 1.
Goals - Walker 5.

Referee Cammack, Umpire Green, Headlinesman Talbott, time of halves 30 min.

GRAND PRAIRIE SWAMP FRESHMEN

The Daily Northwestern - 1909

Heavy Down Staters Roll Up 40
Points on Crippled Opponents.

The football season of Northwestern University closed most un auspiciously on Thanksgiving, when the Freshman team was defeated by the strong Grand Prairie Seminary team of Onarga, the score was 40-0. During the first half the game was very tight, the game being played mostly in Onarga's territory. Grand Prairie was able to score a touchdown largely on account of a fumble. The second half began as if the Freshmen would rush their opponents off the earth. Johnson received the kick-off and ran it back fifty yards before being downed. But then the trouble started. Wandrack, the big tackle, was disabled and had to be taken from the game. This weakened the line on the right side. The luck was visibly against the Fresh-





men because Bell, Crow and Thorsen were each injured and had to be removed.

Captain Hill was the star of the game; he used great head work in selecting plays, and time and again circled the ends for long gains, once getting away for a 50-yard run and a touch-down. Schnurr, full back, and Sage, tackle, were also consistent ground gainers for the victors: both weigh 200 pounds. Walker, the Seminary punter, gave a great exhibition with his toe; some of his punts exceeded sixty yards.

The '13 team was outweighed fifteen pounds to a man, and to have their heaviest men injured proved the downfall, the Seminary tearing great holes through the line. Thirty-four points were scored in the last half, but this did not dampen the ardor of the Freshmen, for they fought hard until the final whistle ended the game.
Onarga Paper - 1909

SO LONG, FOOTBALL

Thanksgiving day is past and gone, and likewise football too, and all the fellows short and long, are feeling rather blue, 'twas the thing that kept them all in line, and made them hump and dig, and now they're working under time with a faint desire to nig; a chap can work, you know he can, if at some future day, there's a chance to show his prowess and make his best girl say, "O, isn't he a honey, O, my, just see him go, I don't care for his money because I love him so;" and then these pretty coeds just gather in a bunch and set up such howling that it gives the crowd a hunch, so all around the gridiron they join with hearty will, and every one is yelling, "go it, go it, Hill;" he jumps and runs and runs and jumps, he whirls and twists and rolls, his battering ram straight out in front as down the field be bowles; they reach around him with their arms, and then they hit the ground, and when they think they've got him fast he's made one more touchdown: While some are resting on the field, and others dead or dying, the pretty coeds clap their hands and

just keep right on crying, "Hay! Hay! come over this way, O, what's the matter with us? Yap! Yap! why don't you clap, with the Sem you ain't worth a . . . S;" but just as this hearth commotion is drawing nigh unto the end, there's a wave like that of the ocean, that sweeps down the field to the end, for the game is on in a twinkling, new men in the tracks of the dead, and Sage is bucking the line with a force that sends him ahead; the opposing team buckles and gathers, and forms a human rampart, but it makes no difference with Sage for he never stops after the start; then again comes that melody, not softy but loud and shrill, like a concert of steam engine whistles and the grind of the stone in the mill, "Ho! ho! why don't you go, O, what is there surer than sure? He's got the whole pack on the top of his back, but it makes no difference to Schnurr; then Walker walks out to the center, or it doesn't make much difference where, and kicks the pigskin with a denter that always puts it right there; he's a kicker from kick-up and kickum, a punter with artistic skill, he kicks by the rule, just like a mule and puts it wherever he will, there's Soucie, sometimes called Susie, a wonderful tackle is he, he makes a nice tumble to recover a fumble, and never gets scart at a she; but Truby, old boy, he's not a decoy, he's serving his very first year, what will he be when he's been here for three, why, he'll tackle a wild Texas steer; did you ever see Speck he's a dandy by heck, but a Speck that is big as the field he is the chief of the guards, and the king of the bardes, his stand he never will yield; Essington center and Talbott guard, an up-to-date pair are they, who tackle the game with G.P.S. fame and always count for a tray; Ottmuller and Allen are there with the goods, a fact that we cannot deny, they shoot in the air, then hit the ground fair, without a whimper or cry; Cammack is famous, a man without fear, and nary a bit of a fob, so when they get stuck and the hook isn't near they simply go and ask Bob; Don Cameron Allen, B.S.; A.B. as a coach our Don is all right, as we tell the story we'll give him the glory of licking 'em all out of sight; who? who? who? Can do up the Sem — not you, Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! If they beat us 'twill be something new.



ILLUSTRIOUS SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY

By Alice Selleck Wright '09

Throughout the life of Grand Prairie Seminary its various presidents held the same high ideals for the school. Uppermost in their minds was to build moral character. Their purpose was to make young people ambitious to succeed, and to afford an opportunity for earnest study and thorough instruction in the subjects outlined in the curriculum. Above everything else they tried to mold a Christian character with high ideals of scholarship accompanied by the highest ideal of manhood and womanhood.

How well Grand Prairie succeeded is attested to by the accomplishments of her many graduates. Many went on to the institutions of higher learning and became very efficient in their fields - law, medicine, the clergy, engineering, music, and education. Many who never went any farther in the educational field became successful home-makers, farmers, and business men. As one talks to the different ones who return to the reunions, one is much impressed by the fact the inspiration received at G.P.S. has marked their lives.

As we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of G.P.S., the fact is self-evident that it is difficult to get much definite information concerning the graduates of the first quarter century of the school's existence. Then, too, the fire of

1921 which destroyed the main building also destroyed most of the records.

We hope that this will explain any oversight of names which the reader may feel should have been included.

To start out, at the reunion of 1946 a letter was read from Mrs. Marthaetta Wyman Ludlow of Jefferson, Iowa, in which she stated that she had attended G.P.S. in 1863. Classes were held in the Methodist church before the Main Building was constructed. Her teachers were Elder Rhodes, one of the founders of the school, and Mrs. Sanford Marston of Onarga. She was ninety-seven years of age when she wrote this letter and lived to be 102.

Up to 1880 not only had the Literary and Music Departments been strong, but the Commercial Department had graduated over one hundred students with the degree of Master of Accounts. All but three of these were still living in 1880. Among the early graduates were:

1868—Horace Brelsford, mail agent

1871—Benjamin Durham, banker

1873—Julia Winter Stokes, daughter of one of the founders of G.P.S., as well as one of the founders of Mt. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.





- 1875—George Duke, wheelright
Frank Hungerford, merchant
- 1876—William Durham, bookkeeper
- 1877—Oscar Sherman, teacher
- 1879—Clarence Messer, clerk
1880 - 1890
- 1881—Brainard O. Hanby, editor and song-writer. One of his compositions was "My Darling Nellie Gray".
- 1882—Phoebe Van Benschoten, later a teacher of English at G.P.S. (Louisa Barnes Furby, '95 remembers her as one of her teachers).
- 1883—Daniel Foreman, married Mattie Haight, '82. Both were teachers.
Charles Everett, lawyer
John Hinkley, lawyer
- 1886—John T. Search, teacher and dentist. Maintained dental office in Onarga until his death
- 1887—Charles Ayling, physician
- 1889—J. Lisle, minister
- 1891—George Booth, owned and operated lumber business in Onarga until his death. Long-time member of the Board of Trustees of G.P.S.
Wendell Kay, lawyer, Watseka, Ill.
Lemuel Russell, physician and surgeon, Danville, Ill.
- 1892—Albert E. Dennison, physician, Chicago, Ill.
Lucy Hickman, business woman, Danville, Ill.
- 1893—Will O. Saylor, teacher. (Oldest G.P.S. alumnus at the 1958 reunion).
- 1894—Richard Meents, banker and state senator
Elmer Shawl, minister
Gertrude Lamoreaux, teacher
- 1895—Godlieb O. Dietz, Circuit Court Judge
- 1896—Charles Pickett, taught at G.P.S.; later in Oregon
Julia Inez Kipp, missionary to India
- 1897—Cyrus Edgar Dietz, Judge on Supreme Court of Illinois
Ray Bassett Kipp, Wing, Ill., missionary to Angola, West Africa
Arthur J. Elliott, International Secretary to Y.M.C.A. Attended reunion in 1949
Arthur Donovan, Chicago, Ill., attorney
- 1898—Ray Corey, consulting engineer in both Oregon and Washington
George Havens, architectural engineer, Chicago, Ill.
- 1899—George L. Harroun, Seattle, Wash., attorney
Horace Greeley Smith, President Emeritus Garrett Theological Seminary (Dr. Smith is named in "Who's Who in Chicago and Illinois")

At the 1949 Reunion George Booth '91 reported that he had taken part in a round-robin letter for twenty years with the following G.P.S. students: Emily Morris Reynolds, Grace Brown Townsend, Lena and Anna Kewley, Julia Hathaway, Charles and Lennie Edwards, and Allie Warren.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A History of the Activities and and Achievements of the Grand Prairie Seminary Alumni Association

Charles Warnock '07

A History of the Activities and Achievements of the Grand Prairie Seminary Alumni Association

The title is impressive but since most of the records have been engraved in the hearts, minds and character of former students, and very little reduced to the written or printed word, much has undoubtedly been lost forever. Years of intensive research could never uncover a small fraction of the glorious history — the hundreds inspired to attend G.P.S. — the helping hands during school years and in after life, the lasting friendships that were formed.

With a humble apology to Editor-in-Chief Lt. Col. 'Lefty' Frazier and all the members and friends of the G.P.S. Association and a most sincere regret for the omission of a vast multitude of heart-warming and epic-making accomplishments — this article is respectfully submitted.

From a 200 page book printed in 1880, entitled 'Commencement Week, Onarga, Ill.' we learn - "The first class which completed the Classical Course of study prescribed by Grand Prairie Seminary, graduated June 23, 1871." "This was the dawn of a new era in the history of the Seminary". "Although it had been for nearly eight years a prosperous institution of learning, yet this was the first class, each member of which carried with her a diploma - the sign and seal of the benediction of her Alma Mater." "However - to this date (1880) the Commercial College had graduated over 100 students with the degree of Master of Accounts."

A few of the local or more or less familiar names were -

1868—H. Belsford, A. Fortin, R. Hall, A. M. Peck, B. & J. Woods

1869—Chas. Barnum, Mary Hineckley, C. Veach

1870—Benj. Durham, Doctor Ward, Josiah Williams

1871—L. H. Bostwick, E. Frazee, Mary Marston, Chas. Platt

1872—Wm. Matthews, John McDowell, Geo. Williams

1873—John Fickle, Jas. Koon, Elmer Wood

1874—Wm. Duke, Thos. McDowell, Frank Pangborn

1875—Frank Hungerford, Chas. Van Nest, John Williams

1876—W. T. Durham, E. Hineckley, Chas. Lockwood, James J. Warnock

1877—E. E. McDowell, O. E. Sherman, Franklin Wing, Eli Ricker

1878—Chas. Haney

1879—Henry Boggs, Ed Dobbins, H. Koon, C. Messer, Jas. Porter

1880—D. L. Baker, Warren Goodell, Al McKinny, F. Pearce, Anna Schofield, Frank Walton, Garvey Weaver, F. Williams.

The same book devoted several pages to the 'Record of the Alumni Anniversary.' It would seem, therefore, that some type of Alumni organization was in existence, probably dating from the graduation of the first class in 1871. However the constitution consisting of a preamble and eight articles was not officially adopted until June 8, 1881.

PREAMBLE: In order that all persons having graduated, or who may in the future graduate from Grand Prairie Seminary, may meet in Annual Reunion for the purpose of renewing pleasant memories of student life greeting again their esteemed instructors; perpetuating class ties; forming the acquaintance, one class of another, and above all, for the purpose of adding, in every laudable manner possible, to the good name of the institution they call Alma Mater, which out of the wisdom of the fathers, was founded for the moral and intellectual welfare of their posterity: The Grand Prairie Seminary Alumni Association, is this seventh day of June, A.D. 1881, formally organized, having for its object the above and for its constitution the following articles: Art. 1 ** Name & Motto "Excelsior" II to VII Membership, officers, elections, duties and rules of order, etc.

The officers in 1880 were: James F. Berry, Pres.; Laura Hurlburt, V.P.; Emmay Wallace, Secretary, and Flora E. Packer, Treasurer. The members were the Class of 1871 - Louisa Clark, Mary Hineckley and Meroa Yeomans, and members thru the class of 1880 numbering about 30 and ranging in age from 16 years to 25 years.

The officers for 1881-82 were A. W. Hyde, Clara Schrader, Carlile Scott, Emma Clark, John McLoud and Eva Harper.

In various early catalogs mention is made of the annual reunions as — June 9, 1884 - The members met at 3:30 p.m. in Seminary Hall. Following

a program they were all invited to the Banquet Hall for delicious refreshments. In 1886 they met at 8:00 p.m. for a musical program followed by refreshments and business meeting. In 1887 it was noted that the 17th Anniversary was held in the Chapel and so on thru the years.

In the catalog for the 38th year of G.P.S. 1900-1901 it stated 'Of the organizations of the Seminary, the Alumni Ass'n. stands first.' It is composed of students who have taken an active part in the class rooms, in the literary societies, on the athletic field and in the Christian Associations.' Annual meetings are held on Wednesday of Commencement week.

The officers for 1903-1904 were Pres. Nellie Morris, V.P., Dr. J. T. Search; Secy., Pearl Smith; Recorder, Martha Matthews, and Treas., Anna Belle Risser. (All well known Onarga residents.)

May 4, 1904 - at the close of the Commencement exercises, an offer of \$10,000. from Hon. W. A. Rankin was read to be used for a \$40,000. recitation and administration building. The Alumni Ass'n. pledged to raise \$5000. to help on the balance needed to raise the fund.

About 1910 the Chicago-Evanston Ass'n. (GPS) was formed and met during each year in the University Building. It proved to be 'a substantial factor in maintaining and awakening enthusiasm among the alumni.'

In 1922 a joint Homecoming of the GPS & OMS Alumni was held in Onarga and the second meeting was held Oct. 27, 1923 for the purpose of reorganizing the Association. The school was open for inspection in the morning with a band concert at 11 a.m. followed by a football game with Parker and a party and dance that night.

Although considerable research was made in old issues of the Leader & Review, the number of years this joint meeting existed, was not learned nor just how many years lapsed after the last regular G.P.S. reunion and the reactivation of the Alumni at the picnic in Kankakee in 1939.

The Resurrection of G.P.S. Alumni Association

Sparked by a suggestion from Miss Faye Elliott of Chebanse, Ill. to the Beardslees of Clifton, a G.P.S. picnic and reunion was planned. Cards were sent to a few former students urging them to invite others and to bring their families for a picnic in Bird's Park, Kankakee on July 30, 1939. About fifty were present for dinner and over 80 during the day. The business session was called to order by Miss Elliott and Henry Beardslee was appointed temporary chairman. All present were in favor of another picnic and reunion for 1940.

Merle Wright was elected Pres., Marie Beardslee, V.P., and F. S. Johnson, Secy. Letters were read

from a number of alumni and teachers. Mrs. Durham of Onarga and Mrs. Stoke of Kankakee, Class of 1872 were present. A collection of \$7.47 was taken to defray notice expenses.

Aug. 25, 1940 - 98 attended and many interesting letters were read. Dr. A. J. Harper invited the Association to hold the 1941 meeting in Onarga. Collection \$11.65.

Aug. 24, 1941 - the 3rd annual reunion was held in Onarga, with a basket dinner in the Methodist church, over 300 were present. It was voted to make this a permanent organization and a committee consisting of Chas. Ward, Marie Beardslee and Dr. Harper was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. Again, many letters were read including ones from former Presidents, Dr. Van Pelt and Dr. Phillips. A resolution was adopted regarding the passing of Rev. H. H. Frost who died July 19, 1941. Col. Bitteringer invited the group to visit the O.M.S. plant. The oldest class - 1872 was represented by J. S. Williams and the youngest by Laura Search, 1918. The new by-laws submitted by the above committee, were adopted.

Aug. 18, 1946 - the 4th reunion was held in Onarga following a lapse during World War II. 156 attended the dinner in the church. A letter was read from Mrs. Marthaetta Wyman Ludlow, of Jefferson, Ia. who was 97 years of age and attended the first classes in the old Methodist church in 1863 with Elder P. T. Rhodes as instructor. There was also a letter from Mrs. Sanford Marston who attended before the Dormitory was erected. Collection \$59.58.

Following these early meetings, reunions have been held regularly thru the years with a fine attendance usually, seldom as low as 100. In 1947 - press notices went out to 16 newspapers. In 1948 a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Wilcox Beasley mentioned Mable Dufford Pinkerton, Cora Kipp and "Speed" Tornquist, whose name she had seen carved on a granite pillar at Boulder Dam, among those of the engineers. In 1949 a newspaper clipping recorded the 100th birthday of Mrs. Ludlow and in 1950 Mrs. Mann visited Mrs. Julia Winter Stokes, G.P.S. 1872-3 who was 96 years of age. In 1951 the Ass'n. voted \$25. to the Van Pelt Memorial Fund. Nearly 350 invitations were mailed in 1950.

Sept. 18, 1955 - the Association voted to pay the church \$10.00 and the janitor \$5.00. The Class of 1893 was represented by W. O. Saylor and R. H. Mason - 1894 - Mrs. Lucy Lockwood Spencer; 1896 by J. G. Holch and Mrs. Bertha Barritt Cox; 1898 Geo. Hall and Dr. Harper, and 1899

by Ross Stoutemeyer. Three families - Williams, Wheelers and Garner, each had three members present. Dr. K. S. Khedroo gave a thrilling and interesting sketch of his life and especially, his attendance in G.P.S. during 1909 and later.

Sept. 16, 1956 - Oldest class was represented by W. O. Saylor '87. Greatest distance - Mrs. Maude Cook Muller, Wichita, Kan. and Mrs. Bushey of St. Louis. An interesting talk was given by Col. Adams of O.M.S. It was moved that the Association purchase a suitable memorial plaque to honor G.P.S.

Sept. 15, 1957 - Mr. Henry reported a suitable plaque would cost between \$75.00 and \$150. and the committee was authorized to spend \$100. 'The Alley Cats' - a girls group from Piper City gave a program.

Sept. 14, 1958 - Harry Hill led the group in singing. It was reported that Dr. Harper, Homer Clark, Gladys Lane (Smith) and Faye Elliott had died. Col. Adams, Major Frazier and Col. Hutchins of O.M.S. gave short talks and an invitation to visit the school.

Sept. 20, 1959 - 98 registered. Collection \$109.50. Mr. Henry presented the Memorial Plaque which was accepted on behalf of G.P.S. by C. H. Warnock, Secy. of the Board. Cost \$100.50, solid bronze 10 by 18 inches. Inscription: Grand Prairie Seminary 1863-1918. "This plaque is erected by former students in Memory of its founders, especially Elder Rhoades; the dedicated teachers and the students who found here a new meaning to life and a greater usefulness to God and Country." Out of state visitors - from Florida, Mrs. Goldia Saylor Williams, Robert and Mildred (Skinner) Cammack; Michigan, R. Hutchison; Indiana, Ernest Truby, Mr. and Mrs. George Decker, Elva Allen and C. E. Kitch and John W. Anderson. Classes represented were - 1894 - Bertha Cox, and George Stinford - 1895, Mrs. Lou Furby, - 1896, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Shaw, Janet Nickerson, - 1899, Ross Stoutemeyer, - 1901, Paige Perkinson, and 1903, Jessica Nickerson and George Boyler.

The following members of the 1909 football squad were introduced - Louis Schnurr, Vernon Essington, John Speck, Robert Cammack, R. J. Ottmuller, John Barner, Ernest Truby, Byron Walker, James Anderson and George Boeman. It was voted to arrange to have the dinner served by the WSCS society.

Sept. 1960 - 105 attended the dinner served by the WSCS society. Collection \$109.05. A group picture was taken of members graduating prior to 1900 - Stoutemeyer, Cox, Jones, Hall, Gordon, Peterson, Cloke and Sanders. Honored at the meeting were four classmates of 1909-10 who had kept in close touch with each other for fifty years - Mrs. Beta St. John Axtel, Mrs. Grace Williams Tobey, Mrs. Opal Randolph Arndt and Miss Fern Yaw.

Sept. 17, 1961 - 110 attended dinner. Collection \$54.10. Col. Adams gave a brief history of

the organization of G.P.S. and the present standing of O.M.S. with a full capacity of cadets from all over U.S. and many foreign countries. Kenneth Ingham and Wm. Salmen offered for consideration the project of uniting the two associations - GPS & OMS, but the committee recommended that such a union be postponed. Robert Cammack gave a short talk about the 1911 football team and introduced several who were present. Plans were discussed for the Centennial celebration and it was agreed it should be a joint affair of both G.P.S. and O.M.S. Alumni Associations.

Sept. 16, 1962 - Again there were 110 at the dinner. Collection was \$107.25 and by mail \$47.50 - total \$144.75. Mrs. Alice Selleck Wright was the honored guest of the day - and gave an interesting account of her experiences as 'Illinois Mother of the Year' and expressed her regrets that she was unable on account of her health - to go to New York for the National Competition. Mrs. Marvin Craig was congratulated for her assistance in placing Mrs. Wright as the Illinois candidate. Col. Adams gave additional items regarding G.P.S. and O.M.S. J. O. Olman, class of 1905 - came from California, others from Missouri, Ohio, etc. Members were urged by C. H. Warnock to send in pictures, programs, etc., that could be used to establish a G.P.S. Historical Museum. It was decided to plan a joint meeting for 1963 to fit into the Centennial plans.



REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN?

By Louisa (Barnes) Furby '95, Bertha Cox '95,
Morris Wheeler and Others

Material for this column was provided by "old timers" who fondly recalled their experiences as students at Grand Prairie Seminary. Among these are: Mrs. Ira Furby, nee Louisa Barnes, who was graduated from Grand Prairie Seminary in vocal music in 1895. Lou, as she is known to her many friends, later attended Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, and sang in the Christmas Cantata Messiah. She later taught organ and vocal lessons to many students in this community, driving her horse and buggy to their homes. Now, at more than 90 years of age, you can see her driving her Lincoln to call on her local friends.

Mrs. Bertha Cox, mother of Glenn Cox, the village mayor, and John Cox, Onarga Postmaster, also contributed material for this column. After her graduation from Grand Prairie Seminary in 1895, she taught at Holtz School in 1896 and in several other schools in the county for several years.

Morris Wheeler (Boy) also gave the Inquiring Reporter much valuable information. "Boy" is now a retired grain dealer and was at one time a member of one of the outstanding football teams of Grand Prairie Seminary. He is at present the Treasurer of the Grand Prairie Seminary - Onarga Military School Board of Trustees.

The President of Grand Prairie Seminary had his office in the northeast corner of the old frame Administration Building and lived in the house now owned and occupied by Glenn Hall.

Dad Elliott's eating club for boys was located north of the Rankin House and Mrs. St. John did the cooking?

The girls living in the Dorm could date only on Saturday and Sunday nights and Mrs. Giddings, the House Mother, checked them in at 9:30?

The transportation was horse and buggy and



instead of the garage and the parking lot there was the livery stable and hitching post?

The athletic field moved from the eastern part of the cemetery to what is now Durham Park and later to what is now the Onarga Military School athletic field?

When dances were prohibited, but social parties were held in the Old Auditorium, and bob-sled rides and hay rides were chaperoned by the parents of Morris Wheeler and other local couples and teachers?

When Mrs. Bailey had charge of the Dining Hall?

When daily chapel was held at noon?

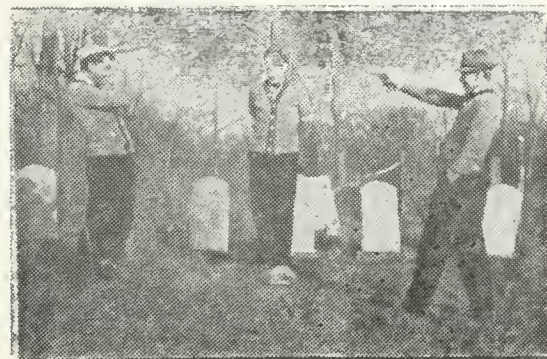
When at church on Sunday — morning and evening — the boys sat on one side and the girls on the other? And how they got together after service for the boys to walk the girls home via the longest route permissible?

And how many romances developed from strolls along one of the favorite Lovers Lanes, the road leading south to the Hicks' farm?

How many of these romances resulted in marriage — Ed Barber and Helen Gibbs, to name only one?

And then the local school teachers wooed and won by the Grand Prairie Seminary boys: "Boy" and Dolly, "Chuck" and Fran. (Editor's note — The O.M.S. boys continued the practice of choosing their wives from the ranks of the local girls: Paul Collins and Phyllis Balding, Jack Mochling and Delores Haerr, Claude Boles and Marilyn Davis, Earl Zatloukal and Marge Homer.

We hope that the reminiscing of these "old timers" will recall many other memories to the readers of this little book and provide fuel for feeding the memory fires of yesteryear.



G.P.S. Junior Class, 1912



Bottom row, left to right: Gladys Randolph Liech, Irwin Ripley, Alice Clarey Lamb, Arthur England, Bernice McQueen, Margaret Haley, Forrest Cammick, Jeanne Wheeler, Edna McNaught, Jess Stone, Minnie Kietzman, Nellie Martin;

Second row: Ben Hobbis, Ruth Clark, Margaret Thompson, Floyd McQueen, Elsa Larson, Clarence Koon, Sadie McNaught Ernst, Talbot, Gertrude Smith, Henry Beardslee, Emily Fiessner;

Third row: Ernest Lockheart, Bill Orem, Irene Lovett, Eric Dixon, Alta Meents Emens, Ed Whiteside, Roy Conn, Mildred Lyons.

Top row: L. Essington, Harold Bartrum, Wesley Shearer, Russel Bowman, Paul Thorne, Hazel B. Curtis Krabel.

Part II

Onarga
Military
School



BRIGADIER GENERAL J. E. BITTINGER

First Superintendent
of Onarga Military School

FOUNDING

Major E. L. Davis

Change has no timetable. According to Long-fellow "nothing that is can pause or stay."

The foundation laid by G. P. S. was no temporary groundwork; it was meant to endure. Hence, O. M. S. was born to carry on a great tradition. The Bittingers with their educational "know how" and a devotion to an ideal put a new look on the Onarga scene. Cadets replaced coeds; the bugle replaced the school bell, but the lamp of learning was retained to remind both students and faculty that the primary purpose remained the same. Although the school bell fell into the ashes of the old frame school building in the fire of 1921, one piece of the bell may be seen among the souvenirs exhibited at the Centennial, and the steps to the school building entrance are mounted daily by the bugler calling the cadets to school, to drill, to mess, and to bed.

For many years the literary societies of G. P. S. held a prominent place in the forensic program of O. M. S. Many of us recall with a great deal of respect and admiration the manner in which Capt. Wilbur Greer led his Chrestos into battle with some young instructor's Lincos.

To make a school it takes students with a desire to learn and teachers with vision and devotion to their profession.

In 1919-1920 twenty-five cadets stood formation. The next year the figure doubled. It was not until

the year 1924-25 that the enrollment passed the one hundred mark.

Many of the faculty members of those early years remained on the staff for many years. Among them are:

J. E. Bittinger, Supt., 1919-1941
L. M. Bittinger, Principal, 1919-1953
L. N. Bittinger, Commandant, 1919-1940
W. J. Greer, Foreign Language, 1919-1941
T. Cornell Vanden Bosch, Music, 1919-1931
E. L. Davis, Science, 1920-1964
T. M. Frazier, English, 1921-23-1930-64
C. H. Ludwick, Social Studies, Coach,
Headmaster, 1923-1952
H. V. Leahy, English, 1923-1932
J. A. Stienecker, Intramural program,
Commandant, 1924-1958

Early changes in the physical plant include:

- (1) the new administration building (1922)
- (2) the north half of the Dormitory (1921)
- (3) the razing of the old Methodist Church on the campus (1924)

The grades taught included 4th through 12th. "Pee Wee's to P. G.'s" — the former living in the "cottage" (old infirmary later).

* * *

Editor's Note: Remember conducting study hall in the old Gym before the new building was completed? Also the twin desks?



STATEMENT OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ONARGA MILITARY SCHOOL

By the O.M.S. Faculty Committee

Onarga Military School is primarily a college preparatory school, and as such it is necessary to follow a curriculum designed to meet the needs of boys who expect to enter college. For those who do not enter college, the curriculum provides both remedial and general courses. The educational philosophy of the administration and the faculty tends toward the traditional curriculum and methods. The administration is more interested in results than in methods. Faculty members are free to try new methods by which they feel the students will benefit. Inasmuch as these boys are away from home, it is the policy of the school to provide the kind of training that should be found in a good home.

General Aims Of The School

1. To develop a high type of citizen by emphasizing character training.
2. To create a wholesome environment.
3. To promote the development of health and physical fitness.
4. To help each boy to help himself by means of:
 - a. Individual conference with his instructors and faculty advisor.
 - b. A vocational and educational testing program.
5. To provide individual attention in the classroom and study periods.
6. To provide remedial instruction wherever possible.
7. To meet the individual needs in academic and extra-curricular activities.

Specific Aims Of The Academic Department

1. To help the cadet to learn how to concentrate.
2. To teach him proper study methods.
3. To provide motivation.
4. To develop better reading habits and skills.
5. To coordinate the work of the different departments.
6. To stimulate a desire for learning by:
 - a. Arousing an internal desire on the part of the student.
 - b. By means of external rewards to supplement the internal desire.
7. To develop clear and logical thinking and the ability to analyze and organize material from the printed page.

Specific Aims Of The Military Department

1. To teach responsibility and leadership.
2. To teach respect, promptness, courtesy, and orderliness.
3. To give such military instruction as prescribed by the government for N.D.C.C. schools.

4. To instill in the cadet a pride in himself, his company, and his school.

Aims Of The Physical Education Department

1. To encourage and instill sound health habits.
2. To teach the skills which will enable the boy to enjoy and benefit from his leisure time, not only during the school years but in later life as well.
3. To emphasize the principle of fair play.
4. To teach cooperation and team play.
5. To overcome the feeling of fear of personal contact.
6. To teach every boy to swim, not only for the pleasure to be derived from it, but as a means of safety.

Aims Of The Music Department

1. To appreciate good music.
2. To experience the satisfaction of being able to play an instrument.
3. To learn to work harmoniously with others.
4. To give preliminary training to those who have the inclination and the talent to prepare for a career in music.

Spiritual and Moral Welfare

1. To provide instructive and inspirational chapel programs.
2. To make available periods for individual conferences with the Chaplain.
3. To create a better understanding of racial and religious groups through the elective course in religious education.
4. To provide the opportunity for cadets to attend the church of their own choosing.

Social Aims

1. To instruct the cadets in good manners in the dining hall.
2. To provide dining instruction.
3. To help the cadet to develop a feeling of being a member in the presence of older people, mixed company, all ages, and among boys and girls of his own age.



CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

By Chaplain John E. Genn

The relationship of the Onarga Military School and the Methodist Church have been close partly by necessity and partly by choice. By necessity because the properties used for the school were under control of the Central Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church and the Conference was responsible for the election or confirmation of the Board of Trustees. An entry in the *Journal and Year Book of the Conference of 1920* states:

"A Boys' School under private management occupies the premises and gives evidence of success. But the matter of property endowment and subscription requires careful attention and action, that the rights and equities of Methodism may be conserved. We recommend the appointment of a commission of seven to represent the Central Illinois Conference in this important matter, . . . This Commission is hereby given the power of attorney on behalf of the Central Illinois Conference to be exercised by the vote of five members of the commission so as to conserve the interests of the Conference . . . The Commission shall act in conjunction with the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church." (p. 63, *Journal of 1920*)

Notices of the school appear from time to time in the *Journals* of the next years. In 1945 an entry in the *Journal* of that year recognizes and approves the relationship of the Onarga Military School to the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Church.

From then on there is consistent notice of the election of Trustees and the appointment of visitors, but for many in the Conference - both ministers and laymen - the school was little more than a name in the *Journal*. This was true of the present writer and chaplain when he was received into the Conference in 1950 and for a number of years afterward.

However, in 1962 a move was made to strengthen the ties between the Church and the School, and for a greater recognition of the School as an integral part of the Methodist Church's system of Universities, Colleges and Secondary Schools. At the 1963 Conference a resolution to this effect was submitted and overwhelmingly approved. In the very near future we expect to see Onarga Military School listed among the schools related to the church in the literature of Methodism.

But this is only the official side of the relationship of the school to the church. There is the relationship of the school to the local Methodist Church and to the other churches of the community. In the early days of the Military School the local Methodist pastor had no official function on the faculty of the school. However, he must have exercised considerable influence as the minister in closest proximity to the school. There were chapel services at which the local ministers and some retired men would officiate. In 1944 with the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Leslie Archer to the Methodist Church of Onarga a new relationship was instituted. A course in religion was offered on a voluntary basis to be taught by the local Methodist minister, and a weekly Chapel service was under his direction.



This arrangement has continued since that time. The ministers who have served the School and the Church in this capacity since Rev. Archer's years in Onarga are: The Rev. Mr. Lloyd Barnard, 1949-50; The Rev. Mr. Orval Bear, 1951-1954; The Rev. Mr. Cecil Lockard, 1955-57; The Rev. Mr. Wilfred Gustin, 1958-61, and the writer, John E. Genn, serving his second year at Onarga.

What this relationship between Church and School has meant for the cadets is, rather obviously, for the cadets to say, but what it has meant to the ministers who have served in this dual capacity much can be said. Orval Bear recalls with pleasure his years here; the colorful parades in fall and spring were memorable, he suggests. One year Orval doubled as an assistant football coach with George Zarcoff and remembers that the record that year was all losses and no wins. Wilfred Gustin writes the following about his experience:

"It is my experience that the chaplain has a 'honeymoon' experience with the cadets at O.M.S. He can be a true friend, a counselor, and pastor with each cadet. As I look back upon this experience I can assuredly say that I, personally, gained much from the relationship. The cadets need a person on the staff who represents not overt authority - but personal warmth and understanding."

This represents the attitude of all who have been privileged to serve in this situation. All of us who have been here have enjoyed the fellowship with the other faculty members, which gives one's years at Onarga an unique quality.

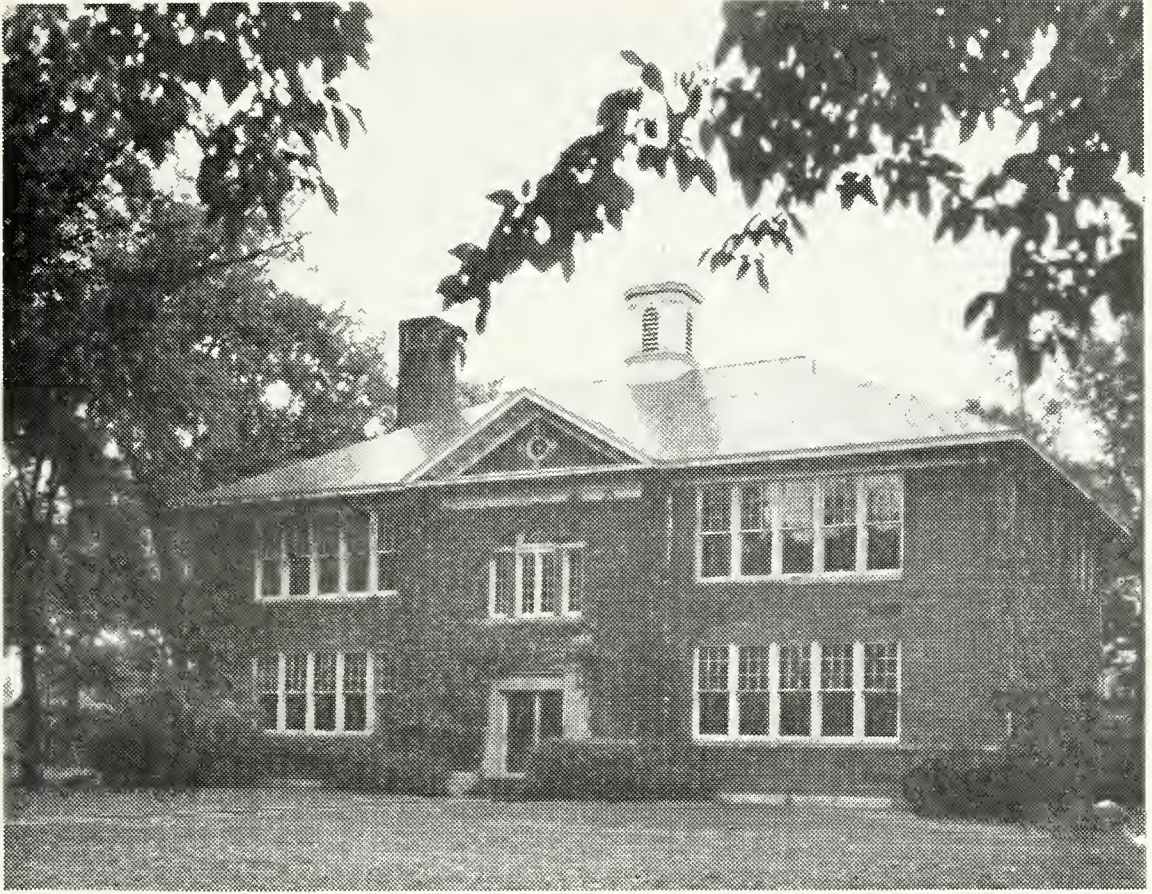
Another aspect of this relationship is what the presence of the school means to the local church.

And one need not deny the fact that at times tensions exist, the overall attitude is one of pleasure with the presence of the boys in the services of worship. My immediate predecessor, Wilfred Gustin, who had an unusually successful time here, writes:

"The Onarga Methodist Church is strategically located and closely affiliated with the school. Many cadets refer to the Onarga Church as 'their church.' I am confident that the affiliate membership which was started two years ago has been continued and has been meaningful to the fellowship of cadets and resident church members."

Finally one must speak of the effect of the relationship upon the school. In our pluralistic, secular society where religion in the secondary schools is prohibited by law, it is the independent school where religion can be given a place commensurate with its influence and importance in history. Even the limited place religion has at present at O.M.S. serves to show that religion has a place in any well rounded curriculum. Furthermore, compulsory attendance at Chapel and at Church on Sunday keeps the cadets aware of their religious duties and opportunities. While the compulsory element may dismay some, it need not. We all know that boys away from home need the guidance and the prodings that only the church can offer. Someone has said that every good thing in life is contrived - it does not come of itself. The compulsory attendance is part of our efforts to contrive a healthy environment social, psychological and religious. Attendance at Chapel and Church are a part of what it means to be a cadet at O.M.S. It is the hope of the writer that an even more extensive and vital religious program may be a part of the future of O.M.S. as it begins its second century of service.





ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

By Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier

Accumulation of knowledge may be a worthy goal, but it should be accompanied by other worthwhile goals. One such goal is to help the boy to help himself. Boys are taught to budget their time, to assume the responsibility for preparing their assignments, and to concentrate on the task at hand.

While the curriculum follows the traditional pattern of college preparatory schools, it is flexible enough to provide courses emphasizing business training.

During the decades when many schools deserted the traditional curriculum for the progressive programs Onarga Military School was following a course not too different from that followed in its later years, by the Grand Prairie Seminary. It is gratifying to see the trend to the return to fundamentals in both public and independent schools.

On the other hand, Onarga Military School has followed with interest the advances made in the better schools and is eager to install improvements wherever possible. Onarga was one of the pioneers in this state in introducing the teaching of a for-

eign language in the lower grades. Since the fifth, sixth, and seventh grades have been dropped, this innovation has been discontinued.

Among the practices that are still in use are: a teacher-pupil ratio of one to ten; the supervised study hall; frequent reports to parents, once every three weeks; vocational interest tests; entrance examinations; the annual *Test Day*, on which achievement tests in specified subjects are given.

Some experimentation has been done in the field of remedial reading, promotion on the basis of proficiency examinations, team teaching, and the introduction of a course in "How To Study".

Among the newer educational procedures being examined are: educational television, language laboratories, the "new mathematics", and programmed instruction.

Onarga Military School is proud of its faculty, a faculty well-balanced by the experience of its older instructors and the vigor and zest of its young men. It is our hope that we may equal the example set for us by the students and teachers of Grand Prairie Seminary.

ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

By Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier



The earliest records available indicate that even in the years of its infancy Onarga Military School was represented by formidable teams in baseball, basketball, and track. Otto White '21 set a record in the broad jump that stood for many years. Lucius Lobdell, one of the first coaches of Yellowjacket teams, coached the 1920-21 team which produced Don McChesney who later played with the famous Onarga Nationals.

In the fall of 1921 the first cadet football team was organized and coached by the writer of this chapter. An inexperienced squad playing with make-shift equipment entered whole heartedly in to a five game schedule arranged after school had started. Playing under handicaps, the boys tried hard to turn in a winner but had to be satisfied with a winless season. The record of this first O. M. S. football team was:

O.M.S.	0.....	Gilman	12
O.M.S.	0.....	Bradley	13
O.M.S.	25.....	Milford	45
O.M.S.	0.....	Kentland	48
O.M.S.	6.....	Bradley	27

Church Blaisdell '22 was captain and fullback, and Jim McAnulty '22 was the 115 lb. quarterback.



The next year ushered in a great year in athletics, particularly in football and track. The only game lost was to Eureka by one touchdown. The team's personnel included Salmon and Wallace at ends; Beedy (Capt.), Williams, and Waterson at tackles; Daggett and Smith at guards; Hutchins, center; Martin, quarterback; Berggren and Stensel, halfbacks; and Garner, fullback.

Salmon and Berggren represented the cadets at the National Interscholastic Track and Field Meet at Stagg Field in Chicago in the Spring of 1923. Salmon was entered in the 880 yd. run and Berggren in the high and low hurdles.

The season of 1923 saw the beginning of the Ludwick era. Lud turned out great teams throughout his quarter of a century of coaching the Yellow-jackets. After my return to Onarga in 1930 I had the privilege of assisting Lud for many years as his line coach. I can't pay him too high a tribute both as a coach and as a gentleman. Just a few of the highlights of this era were: the forming of the Mid-West Prep School Conference with O. M. S. as a charter member; the winning of the football trophy by having won three championships; the third place basketball won at the National Tournament at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1926; Bud Leahy's great track teams and the national two-mile relay champions; Jack Stienecker's equally great track teams; those great tackles, Jim Green, the late Joe Chambers, Jack Casserly, and Harry Krause; our two representatives on the College All Stars, Leon Larson and Bob Costelo. Space just does not permit mention of the many other great athletes.

With the break-up of the Mid-West Conference came a new era, our becoming members of the Illinois High School Association. The teams of

Capt. Keith Clark, now teaching at Palo Alto, California, were respected members of the strong Wau-seca Conference. Some of the highlights of this period include the 1948 basketball conference co-champions, a team that went to the sectional in state tournament play; one of the best track teams in the school's annals, including Lawton Lamb '48, state mile champion, Krabbe, Liska, Eyler, Clarke, and others. 1948 also produced our only tennis contenders in the state tournament, Bob Avery and Dick Higgins, who had the misfortune of drawing the Oak Park doubles team in the first round, the eventual state champions.

Other coaches to be remembered were: Jack Fraser, "Moose" Corgnati, George Zarkof, Bart Greenwood, Bob Avery, Julius Corrubia, Bill Eskridge with his undefeated, untied team which won the Vermilion Valley Conference championship in 1958. Under such men as Roger Council, Bob McCoy, and Chuck Ihrike the newly christened "Spartans" can anticipate many more glorious days.

No account of a sports and recreation program would be complete if we neglected to pay tribute to the un-sung coaches of the physical fitness and intramural programs, the minor sports, and the rifle team. Long hours and much effort brought the compensation of individual progress to men like "Pop" Hales, Mark Herbst, Bill Simmons, Jim Hobbs, Gordon Fisher, Don Haberkorn, Bill Wyman, and Bill Coulter - to mention only a few. But the grand-daddy of them all was the unforgettable Jack Stienecker, a tireless worker in corrective, competitive and developmental activities.

(Note: this chapter was originally intended to include the Military program. The writer regrets his inadequacy to deal with this important phase of school life in a satisfactory manner.)



WHAT THE ONARGRAADS ARE DOING

By Jack Stienecker

It would indeed be interesting and illuminating if we could list here all those of our O. M. S. alumni who have risen to rather eminent positions in various fields we list on these pages. It is really too bad that all graduates and others don't make it a point to keep in touch with either the school itself or the Alumni Association.

We have yet to meet any of the alumni who are not happy to receive word of any of their classmates, as well as others who attended O. M. S. during their years of residence.

There is no doubt that the space apportioned for this section would be too small for a complete list, as it is even now with this sampling of successful graduates within the various fields of endeavor. It does however give us a fair idea how varied are the fields of interest of our young alumni and of their successful advancement.

Education

Burrus '34
Torchiana '41
Grayson '20's
Zahner '49
Templeton '49

Army

Gregory '28
Bowman '42
J. Murphy '40
Viterna '42
Hutchins '25

Commercial

Griffith '26
Stupka '30's
Hayn '26

Dentistry

Mikula '31
Hannon '29
Bodine '47
W. Akerly '49

Aircraft Missile

Stienecker '35
Robt. Schmidt '46

Veterinarians

Yabsley '36

Navy

Bergner '35
Harker '35
Robt. Smith '45
W. Hess

Construction

Bergren '23
Bissinger '32
Boles '46
Mochling '52

Research

Chatfield '26
Schreiter '28
D. Richardson
Frazier '43

Automotive

Brewer '39
Krabbe '48

Optometry

Abbott '26

Publicitors

C. D. Pendergast '32

Air Force

Nate Hayes '35
E. Price '37
D. Smith '48
Poor '50

Medicine

McKay '28
Hiatt '39
Dimond
Geo. Cannon '52

Newspaper

Sachs '41
G. Bittinger '42
Wiley '52
Greenhill '49

Restauranteurs

Del Johnson '33
J. Dinou '40

Traffic Management

John Akerly
Physical Education
Garner '25
Lundberg '35
G. Burkhardt '40

Civil Engineering

T. Vourvoulas '47
Bill Dinkmeyer '48

Athletic Coaching

Krause '33
Avery '48
Wm. Burkhardt '40

Engineering

Homer '43
Ch. Holtzman '43
Fortin '48
York '54

Insurance

G. Carlson '29
Castelo '35
Bestow '40

Entertaining & Radio

Villani '46
Chas. Hedges '49
Leon Larson '34
Robt. Murphy '43
Gay '31

Banking

Egley '26
L. Reed '22

Law

M. Horwitz '39
H. Kitsos '46
N. Kitsos '48

Morticians

V. Stensel '29
L. Stensel '29
Hanson '30's

Management

Ted Schmidt '44
Dar. Davis '44
Kinlock '30

National Government

Lorentzen '43
Robt. Schmidt '46

Advertising

McAnnulty '22
Zatloukal '46

Building

Salmen '28
D. Newberg '46
Travis '39

Sales Management

Ingham '29
Stan Smith '28
R. Richards '40

Chiropractors

Carl Bury '36

Agriculture

Dorsey '27
Ikens '33
Hurley '40
Gast '44

Recreation

Dandelles '41
Homel '40
Ch. Berry '52

Merchandising

S. Breyer '28
Hammer '39
Art Wolfe '45
Bob Feuer '51

Public Accounting

Wm. French '39
Ed. Murphy '44
J. Kase '48

Nurserymen

R. Stern '55
Cailey '30

Swearingen

Manufacturing Sale Rep.

Bean '27
Bolt '27

War Department

Wilson Reed '36



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By Bill Salmen '26

There have been many attempts to form and keep an active alumni association of the Onarga Military School, but it wasn't until 1947 when fourteen alumni met in the office of Major J. A. Stienecker that the nucleus of a now active alumni association was formed. In March of 1948 letters were mailed to 300 known alumni, announcing the contemplated organization. Shortly thereafter a meeting was held in the La Salle Hotel in Chicago and 60 former students met with Col. Bittinger and Col. Ludwick when by-laws and other business was discussed and the following first officers of the alumni association were elected. William Salmen '28, President; Don Garner '26, Vice President; Ken Ingham '29, Treasurer; and Charles White '41, Secretary.

The first Homecoming under the direction of these officers was held at the school in October 1948. Fifty alumni attended. This was a stag affair as were the two succeeding annual meetings. The third year, when Dinou '40 brought his wife along, it was decided to promote the idea of having our wives and sweethearts enjoy our Homecoming festivities with us. Many of the wives had never visited O.M.S. and by inviting them we felt they would really learn to understand what O.M.S. has meant to us.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Onarga Military School Alumni Association was formed a few years later and they now meet once a year at Homecoming. One of the several responsibilities they have enjoyed accepting is serving luncheon on the Saturday of Homecoming and a brunch on Sunday.

The success of our Homecoming meetings is largely due to these ladies.

Among the accomplishments of the Alumni Association we cite the erection of a sign at either end of the town of Onarga advertising the school; the Ludwick Memorial Bench, dedicated to the late Col. Claude H. Ludwick; portraits of Major J. A. Stienecker, Major E. L. Davis and Lt. Col. Todd M. Frazier; the bulletin board on which pictures of some of the classes have been mounted; and the most recent project, the Onarga Military School Trust Fund. This fund is governed by a Board of Trustees of five members, four of whom are alumni of the school. The purpose of the Fund is to accept gifts, donations and contributions for the purposes for which they are given.

Three members of the Alumni Association are now serving on the Board of Trustees of the Onarga Military School. They are John Egley '26; Clement Ikins '33 and Kenneth E. Ingham '29. As vacancies occur on the Board we anticipate and hope they will be filled by other alumni.

The Alumni Association is incorporated and the charter has been filed with the State of Illinois. Through payment of dues, profits made at Homecoming and much hard work and good management, this organization is solvent. We now have an active list of 600 alumni. We do not hear from all 600, but those we do hear from make all our efforts worthwhile.

Present officers of the Alumni Association are. Dr. F. G. Yabsley '36, President; M. P. Richards '40, Vice President; Edward T. Murphy '44, Treasurer; and William Salmen '28, Secretary.



A LETTER FROM COL. BITTINGER



May 12, 1963

Dear Lefty,

I surely thought that before this time I would get off an answer to your letter of two months ago. This is Sunday afternoon and a good time to write. I think that to give you the information that you desire, it would be better to put it in the form of a letter and let you do with it as you wish.

Col. Bittinger and Major and I had spoken of going into school work together, preferably a military school. Toward the end of the war we began to plan seriously of carrying out our plans. We had in mind a military school. Col. had heard of Grand Prairie Seminary, and thought that possibly there might be an opening there, for at that time there were only some thirteen students enrolled. It was co-educational. Col. was then on the faculty of Kemper Military School in Boonville, Missouri. One weekend he made a trip to Onarga and met with the Board of Trustees. He liked the members and they in turn liked him. The upshot of the matter was that he made an agreement to take over the school.

Major was then in France with the armed forces and I was registrar of the University of North Dakota. So it was that the three of us came together in Onarga during the summer of 1919.

The first thing we had to do was to secure necessary equipment for a military school and start work on our enrollment for the first year. We were fortunate enough to secure an enrollment of twenty two boys. The second year we opened with fifty two. From then on there was a gradual increase.

The original Seminary building, a white frame structure, stood where the present school building

now stands. After two years it was destroyed by fire and replaced by the present brick structure. The enrollment had increased so that it was necessary to add to the dormitory and gymnasium and construct the auditorium.

The names - Davis, Frazier, Greer, and Stien-ecker have long been familiar ones in Onarga Military history, as have the names of other staff members. Neither can we forget Claude Ludwick and his football and basketball teams and Bud Leahy and his track teams. We won our share of games during those days, due more, probably, to the love of the team for their Alma Mater. Love of school was always first and foremost in the planning of the administration and the implanting of these ideals in the thinking of the boys and young men who came to us for an education. In this we followed closely the ideals of Grand Prairie Seminary. It was always a source of deep satisfaction to us to see the loyalty which the young men, former cadets, revealed as they returned from time to time to the campus. We did not expect perfection, but over the years we saw many heart warming changes.

1863 - 1963

That means one hundred years. Not many of us live to see a century pass by in its entirety. But many have seen a large part of these hundred years pass. How quickly they have gone by.

Mrs. Bittinger and I send cordial greetings to you all.

For Yesterday is but a Dream,
And To-Morrow is only a Vision;
But To-Day, well lived,
Makes every Yesterday
A dream of Happiness,
And every To-Morrow a Vision of Hope.



HISTORY OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT AT O.M.S.

J. A. Stienecker

When the Onarga Military School opened for its first year, the military section of the school must have been very limited indeed. With only 18 boys to open the first session even Major Bittinger, certainly, never needed to raise his voice much to carry over his "battalion".

This group would draw more than laughs from the last few years' battle groups. Their rifles were WWI original training rifles, turned out on wood lathes in large numbers quickly, to give our budding army a taste of drill until the real thing came along. They were nothing but wood. These became available to about any civilian drill group after the war's end.

Soon these were replaced by "rifles" with mock metal barrels, mock metal bolt, magazine and trigger actions. At least they looked like the real thing and were heavy enough to approximate a military piece.

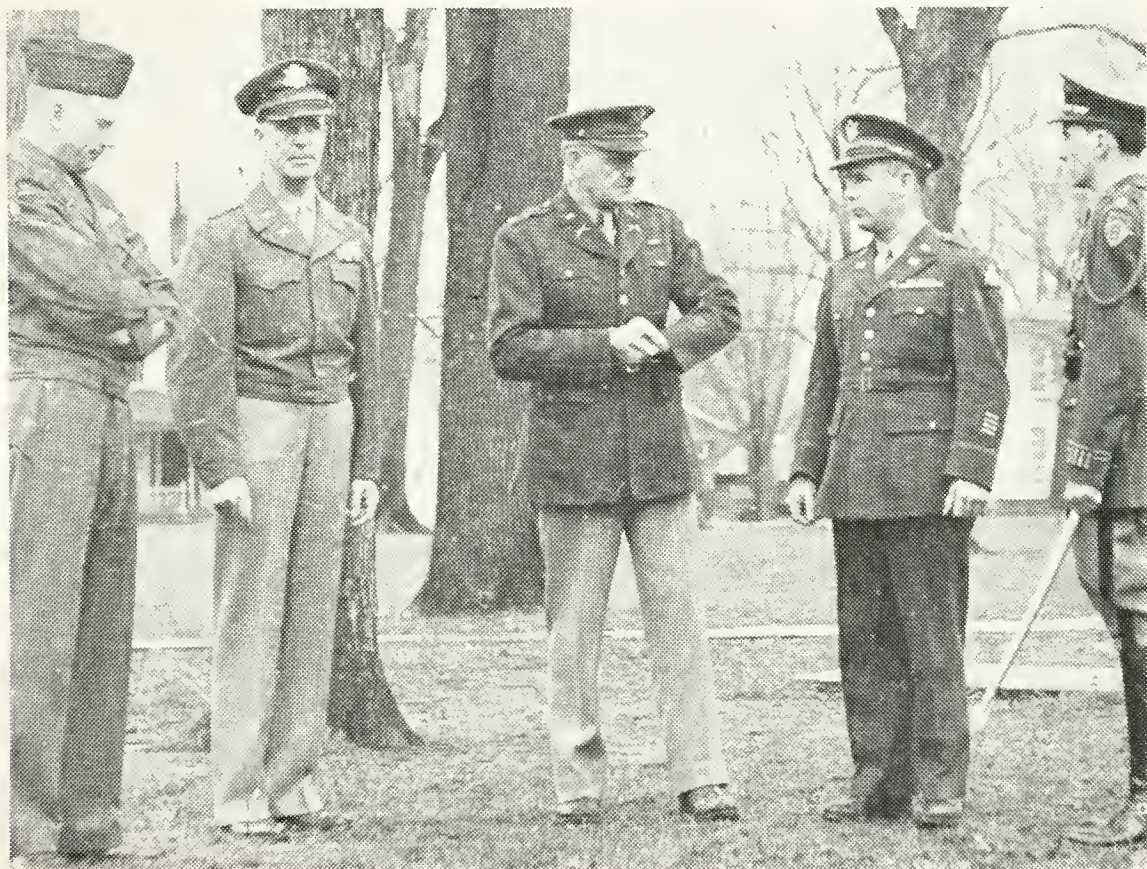
With these early makeshift weapons went a temporary uniform fashioned after the army's khaki. They fit but left a lot to be desired as to snappiness. They were topped by the old campaign hat and the legs from knee to ankle were wrapped in the spiral

puttees. Wrapped too loose they slipped, wrapped too tight they "killed" one's legs by slowing circulation.

Next came the West Point type of greys for dress, used for all special occasions and Sundays, also always worn on any "leaves". Dress cap went with this as did a white cross belt for formal wear.

Then came the year of our first Inspection by the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General, Frank Taylor. This was passed with flying colors. I remember well the general's remark after he completed the dorm inspection. "I don't have to see anything else". However he did follow the schedule through all the buildings, the drill, and finally reviewed the formal parade. The general's approval to create a Post of the Illinois National Guard was an assured matter.

The year before the above happened, Captain Stienecker readied the Battalion for its first formal parade. None who participated in this will ever forget, I'm sure. Major Bittinger acted as Battalion Commander, with Captain Ludwick as adjutant, and Col. J. E. Bittinger took the review. It went off real well too, but was the last on this makeshift





basis. The cadets learned fast and Sunday parades came into regular being. By the next year the cadets put on the Sunday Parade in apple pie order with not a faculty officer in attendance. These were welcoming Captain Leahy and his new bride.

With 1928 came the initial "Farewell Parade" at Commencement time. This first farewell parade will be pictured in the historical display in the old gym. With a few additions, the colorful event is much the same.

These were the days of "squad east and west", when close order drill could put on a rather spectacular show by using nothing but regular army manual and foot movements. Many of these movements are now used in the cadet Crack Company drill, although only the front rank of a squad can be utilized. Performing the right shoulder arms in the march allows for more diversity in movements from the hilt. The "wheel" dating far back in military drill is also a part of the Crack Company's movements, plus special manuals of arms and usually ending with the O.M.S. version of the old Queen's Salute. This Company has paraded and drilled in many cities and towns throughout eastern Illinois.

Also at about this time the rifle range was begun. When centralized heating was put into the main campus building the furnace room in the old auditorium became available. This made a good rifle room, but the firing range ran under the old building where there was about three feet of crawling

space. It sufficed. The first year only standing with rest was fired, as firing over a trench parapet. Then with the help of the American Legion, a raised platform gave us the possibility of firing all positions.

Privately or school owned rifles were used until we joined the National Rifle Association and were able to draw our quota. Intramural competition continued through the 30's when several individuals were allowed to go to Chicago to fire in a senior match at the Chicago University. Naturally about all they got was experience. But from then on the cadets entered more and more of the N.R.A. competitions and with 1940, matches with other schools were begun. By forty three the teams began to show real strength. During the early years after WW II, the team coached by Sgt. Artz placed no lower than second in the Fifth Army and N.R.A. Sectional matches, winning the National Sectional in 1949. In the National annual matches the teams placed as high as 13th, 16th and 26th, among the more than 2500 teams firing. Several individual championships have been won during the years. Well into the fifties, the win lost column showed heavily in the win columns. These matches always included several college teams as well as other military schools and high schools throughout the United States. The record has been good.

Also with the thirties, government aid was secured. This meant army rifles, (WWI Enfields),

with instruction in firing, etc., as well. All cadets were from then on required to fire regularly on the range. Soon a range for the .30 caliber rifles was built about a mile south of Onarga. After a few years it was judged unsafe. Arrangements were then made with the National Guard for use of their range at Danville, which was used until closed. The last group to use the Danville Range was a small detail by special permission in 1942.

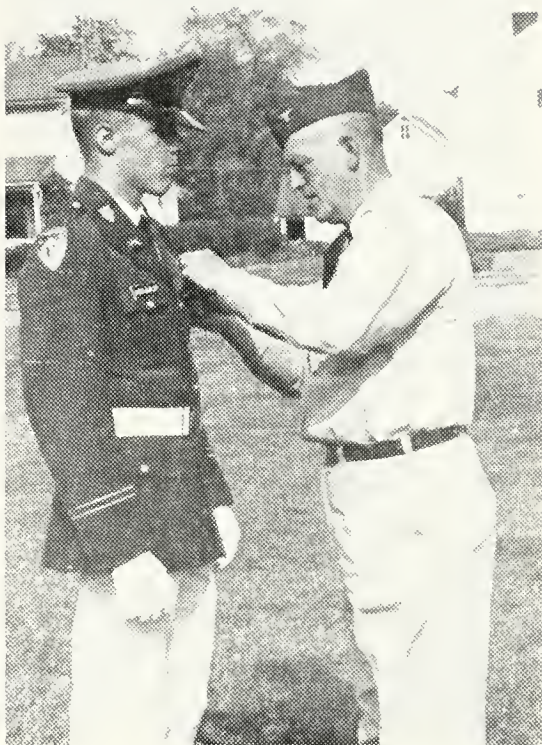
All through the thirties drill was enhanced by other than close order work. Other subjects as mapping and extended order, first aid, etc., were added to a greater or lesser degree. The first tentative new close order drills were tried until the present finally evolved. The P.M.S.&T., as then called, from the University of Illinois Army Instructor group checked, schooled and lectured once a week.

It was during these changing 30's that the Commandant Major Bittinger came up with the new dress blouse. This blue coat is still in use. Different types of fatigue were tried until in the forties the present summer light weight grey was adopted. The battle jacket was added during the WW II war years, as well as the present raincoat. Earlier, with the disappearance of the campaign hat, the "overseas" cap made its appearance.

Shoulder patches of OMS were added and as the 55c unit came into being their patch was also worn. That is the uniform today, except that the national organization shoulder patch has been changed to that of the NDCC.

As trouble in Europe exploded and war rumors spread, more work to assist cadets in entering service was the rule and in 1944 the preliminary inspection from Fifth Army took place. The cadets made a very creditable showing and the U.S. Department of War allowed the forming of a 55c ROTC unit.

With the new set-up, new army rifles were re-



ceived, and other materials as maps and supplies, manuals for all phases of military science were issued and so a comprehensive course was soon in progress. OMS was ideally situated, and with cooperation of the people, active field maneuvers, road marches, and problems became the order during available time on week-ends. Night problems also were engaged in, especially in scouting and direction





finding, etc. Most of these, with war's cessation and also as the grounds became unavailable were gradually dropped.

An interesting note is that during 1944 a group of 20 or more Onarga High School boys asked if they could obtain military instruction. This was granted and cadet officers were assigned to instruct them. Naturally not too much could be done. However, they learned commands, close order drill, and instruction in firing the army rifle, plus actual firing on our indoor range. By spring they participated in our Sunday parades under their own commanders.

It was also during the 40's that the inter-company drills were organized and became one of the Corps highlights matching the G.I. inspections.

Our rather close association with the R.O.T.C. group instructors at the University of Illinois and their fine cooperation in anything we asked must be mentioned. Even to this day officers from this

group judge the inter-company drill competitions. It was also due to the Illinois unit that our rifle teams became well seasoned for our N.R.A. and Fifth Army shoulder to shoulder matches, by making it possible to fire against their teams under very strange conditions for us, indeed, and too, firing against stiff competition.

The OMS military section thus has spanned the style and type of procedures of WW I, II and the Korean action until the cadets active here during the first half of its being would be at a loss on many matters. Close order drill has changed, tactics have changed as also those most common to all - drill commands. Even organization naming has seen many changes. So a second generation cadet and his Dad could have a rough time meeting on a common ground.

In the early 50's the 55c units became eligible for honor rating by the Department of Defense. The Corps has been a consistent recipient of the gold star, signifying the yearly honor.

Similarly at this time, the Department of Defense changed the name of all 55c units to the National Defense Cadet Corps. With the new name, more and different equipment and arms were made available by the government so that the NDCC organizations are virtually the same as the Junior ROTC.

But through it all the corps keeps pace, changing yet remaining the same, all cadets of a good and proud junior military organization.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

By Colonel L. E. Adams

In the Spring of 1863 the Reverend P. T. Rhodes, presiding elder of the Middleport District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, asked each of his quarterly conferences to determine the demand for a high grade seminary to be established in Iroquois County. The Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College was founded in Onarga in the Fall of 1863. The Onarga Military School became its successor in the Fall of 1918.

There is just as great a need for the Onarga Military School today as there was for the Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College in 1863. In 1863 Illinois was a growing prairie state with few good schools. Today many of the public and parochial schools of Illinois and other states are overcrowded. Many of the schools have been double-shifted for years and some are triple-shifted. This means that students are able to attend school only half days and one-third days. Many students are falling behind at a rapid rate which results in the ever increasing number of high school drop outs.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare puts the total of all non-public elementary and secondary schools at more than 17,000, mostly church-sponsored, up from about 14,000 a decade ago. In the school year now getting under way some 6.9 million youngsters, or 14.3 per cent of the 48.1 million students below college level, will be attending private institutions, such as OMS: this is up from 4.3 million, or 12.9 per cent of the total 10 years ago.

The growing interest in the independent schools arises from the concern of parents about the quality of their children's education, coupled with a lack of substantial additional capacity in existing independent schools. There is much concern that public schools, because of big classes or a tendency to let slower students set the learning pace, won't prepare students adequately to meet rigorous college entrance requirements. The teacher-pupil ratio of the Onarga Military School is about 1 to 8. This ratio for all



public and parochial schools across the nation is 1 to 33.

This is only the beginning for our schools are bursting at the seams. It will not be long until the teacher-pupil ratio in many of our public and parochial schools will be 1 to 40. The over-crowded conditions which exist in so many of our schools, both public and parochial, has greatly accelerated the trend toward the military board school in the Midwest. This trend should enable the Onarga Military School to be more selective in filling the School to its present capacity.

There is an obligation of citizenship placed upon each young man in our nation to serve a minimum of 6 years in the armed forces. We are prepared to offer a military training program approved by the Department of the Army which will prepare our cadets to fulfill this military obligation with honor and distinction. Our military training program will give a boy an adjustment to group living, to being away from home and to live with other single men and to have men for instructors. The program will also prepare him for basic training since it covers essentially the same elements covered in the school of the soldier.

At OMS we devote nine hours a day to the academic program, two hours to a physical fitness program and only three forty-minute periods plus two hours on Saturday to the military training program.

We are geared throughout the School to a maximum enrollment of 125 cadets. We do not have dormitory space or classrooms for more boys. We are entering our one hundredth year with a fine group of young men, whom we firmly believe came to OMS fully prepared to make an honest effort to advance themselves along all lines: academic, physical, spiritual and moral. For the immediate future we shall continue to be a small military boarding school with an excellent reputation for training young men for what we know lies in store for them in their young adult lives. The founding fathers of the Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College have left us a rich heritage.



THE GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY BOARD LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

By Marvin M. Craig, for the GPS Board

"Not heaven itself upon the past has power;
By what has been, has been, and I have
had my hour".—John Dryden.

The poet Dryden put it well. "What has been, has been." There is no way of changing the past. Its memories are varied with persons and circumstances involved.

We recall this line from a typing exercise we did in school long years ago. "I have no way of judging of the future but by the past".

Often that is the case. We recall the past to use as a rule and guide for future conduct.

The past is not always the best approach for considering the future in education. Education is advancement and change. There would be no change if we adhered closely to the patterns of the

past. The fundamentals may be good. The practices must be adopted to present needs.

The Grand Prairie Seminary Board, the corporate name under which Onarga Military School is operated, is aware of the rapid changes in education today. It is the desire of the Board to staff the school with men who will keep the OMS educational program abreast of the changing world.

There was a time when the Board leased the school properties to an administrator. It was his duty to operate school without cost to the Board for meals, lodging, instruction and class room supplies. The Board has adopted a policy of closer supervision. There are no leases. All persons employed at the school are under contract to the Board.

At the request of the Board, a new policy of select-

Grand Prairie Seminary Board of Trustees



Seated, (left to right): Kenneth Ingham, Elmer Ebert, Charles H. Warnock, G. B. Olson, Avery D. Shepherd, R. M. Wheeler, Colonel L. E. Adams. Standing: Robert E. Meyer, John H. Egley, Frank Zirkle, Clement Ikins, S. B. Cultra, John Stephens, Roland Knoche, Chauncey Booth.

Not present for picture: Marvin M. Craig, Leslie E. Bork, Sr., Robert Bradshaw, and W. E. Bennett, D.D.

ing students has been put into effect. New standards, and higher ones, were adopted this year for the admission of applicants. The Board wants boys in the school who have both the willingness and the ability to study. Schools today have no place for the boy who either can't or won't learn.

The Board is interested not only in raising the mental quality of its students, it seeks, as always, to find boys who are of good moral character. This summer all new applicants were visited by a representative of the school in their homes. The Board wanted to know about their family and home surroundings. There are all kinds of boys at all levels of society. Their actions at home usually tell whether he is the kind of person wanted at Onarga Military School.

The Board has adopted a policy of seeking young men to fill vacancies on the faculty as they occur. Some of the men, and this is one of the things that the Board is very proud to say, have served the school forty years and more. They are looking toward retirement. The Board wants young men in their place. They especially want young men who will be interested in making their career one of long service to Onarga Military School.

The Board looks forward to improvement in the physical facilities of the school. Educational trends indicate an increasing need for schools such as the one represented by GPS Board. The enrollment could be increased if there were more barracks, dining space and classrooms to take care of additional cadets. Money for these things comes slowly. The money and the additions will come with the years.

The Board is happy for the interest in the school by the alumni groups of both GPS and OMS. The latter group has plans for a trust fund to assist cadets with their education if financial reverses should come. The fund will be ready for use in the near future. The OMS alumni have been of help in securing new students. They encourage the Board by seeing a great future for the school.

The GPS Board is grateful for the courage of those who served through the years of war, depression and change. "The first hundred years are the hardest", it has often been said. The present members face another century with the challenge of abundant opportunities in an ever changing world. They pledge now, and call upon those who will follow after them, to carry on the always unfinished task — that of educating the young people.

ONARGA MILITARY SCHOOL TRUST FUND

By Kenneth Ingham, OMS '28

It has become apparent over the years to the members of the Alumni Association of Onarga Military School, as well as the members of the Board and administrative personnel of Onarga Military School, that there was a great need for the creation of an agency designed for receiving and administering gifts of money and other property which would be used as a fund for the advancement of the high ideals of Onarga Military School for such purposes as scholarships, financial assistance to a needy cadet, school improvements, etc.

Your Alumni Association, after several years of consideration and investigation into the matter, is now pleased to announce the establishment of the Onarga Military School Trust Fund, whereby the highest ideals of the School, Alumni and Friends can be effected in a concrete manner.

This trust fund is chartered by the State of Illinois and copies of the Declaration of Trust, which clearly outlines the purpose and structure, are available.

Those alumni of Grand Prairie Seminary and Onarga Military School, as well as friends, who wish to be among the Charter Donors are urged to send their contributions to the account established in the Onarga State Bank, Onarga, Illinois.

Your contributions can be mailed or left in person at the bank. If you send your contribution by mail, just address it to Onarga Military School Trust Fund, Onarga State Bank, Onarga, Illinois, 60955. If you make the contribution in person, just tell the bank clerk the account you want credited.

Mr. John H. Egley, President of the bank and an alumnus of Onarga Military School, will be glad to answer your questions concerning the fund. He will be pleased to discuss contributions to the fund with you during business hours at the bank.

The OMS alumni say, as you plan for the future, plan also for the future of Onarga Military School with a gift to the Onarga Military School Trust Fund.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

United States Senate

Paul H. Douglas
Illinois

April 25, 1963

Mr. T. M. Frazier
Centennial Committee
Grand Prairie Seminary - Onarga Military School
318 Seminary Avenue
Onarga, Illinois

Dear Mr. Frazier:

I want to send my congratulations on occasion of Grand Prairie Seminary-Onarga Military School's 100th anniversary.

For a century now Grand Prairie Seminary-Onarga Military School has devoted itself to educating youth for character, responsibility, and service. It has made an incalculable contribution to the State and the Nation. Upon behalf of both, I express the deepest of appreciation. Our gratitude for the past, however, levies a claim upon your future. We need and are counting upon your continued production of those qualities which alone will keep our nation as great in the future as they have made it in the past.

With honors for the century past, may I salute equally the second one you are ushering in.

Faithfully yours,

Paul H. Douglas



United States Senate
Minority Leader

Everett McKinley Dirksen
Illinois

April 30, 1963

Colonel Todd M. Frazier
334 East Lincoln
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Colonel Frazier:

It would be such a delight to be able to assure you now that I might be on hand for the Centennial of Grand Prairie Seminary and Onarga Military School in early October of this year but frankly my calendar is so unpredictable that it is impossible to

make such a determination now. Let me however embrace this opportunity to extend my greetings and best wishes for the centennial occasion.

It would appear that the schools were established in 1863 and Abraham Lincoln was the President and Commander-in-Chief and deeply concerned about the preservation of the Union.

Your school has lived with a great tradition over a hundred years of time and I earnestly hope that it may grow and flourish and serve well that community.

With every good wish,

Everett M. Dirksen



State of Illinois
Office of Governor
Springfield

Otto Kerner, Governor

September 12, 1963

As Governor of Illinois, I would like to offer my congratulations and best wishes for a successful Grand Prairie Seminary Onarga Military School Centennial.

Our State is proud indeed to join in the observance of 100 years of distinguished service by this institution. May there be hundreds more.

Sincerely,

Otto Kerner
Governor

State of Illinois
Office of The Lieutenant Governor
Springfield

Samuel H. Shapiro
Lieutenant Governor

May 6, 1963

Lieutenant Colonel T. M. Frazier
Onarga Military School
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Lieutenant Colonel Frazier:

Salutations and congratulations to Onarga Military School and its corporate alter ego, Grand Prairie

Seminary and Commercial College on a century of progressive education.

Although Onarga Military School is a private preparatory school, small by comparison to most schools for boys being educated for college, the quality of its work has attracted splendid young men from many states, even from Africa and Canada.

The emphasis on spiritual, as well as academic and military training, is developing a type of manhood which our country needs today, and always will need.

Best wishes for a successful centennial event, and for continued progress in your second hundred years.

Sincerely,
Samuel H. Shapiro
Lieutenant Governor
State of Illinois

State of Illinois
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
302 State Office Building
Springfield

Ray Page
Superintendent

Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier
318 East Seminary Avenue
Onarga, Illinois

Dear Col. Frazier:

I have known of the Grand Prairie Seminary-

Onarga Military School for many years. It enjoys an outstanding reputation as a preparatory school with history and tradition.

On the occasion of its Centennial, I am pleased to join thousands of Illinois citizens in extending my sincere congratulations and best wishes to you and the school for the years ahead.

It is my wish that the future years shall be equally as productive in educational advancement as the past century has been.

Sincerely yours,
Ray Page
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

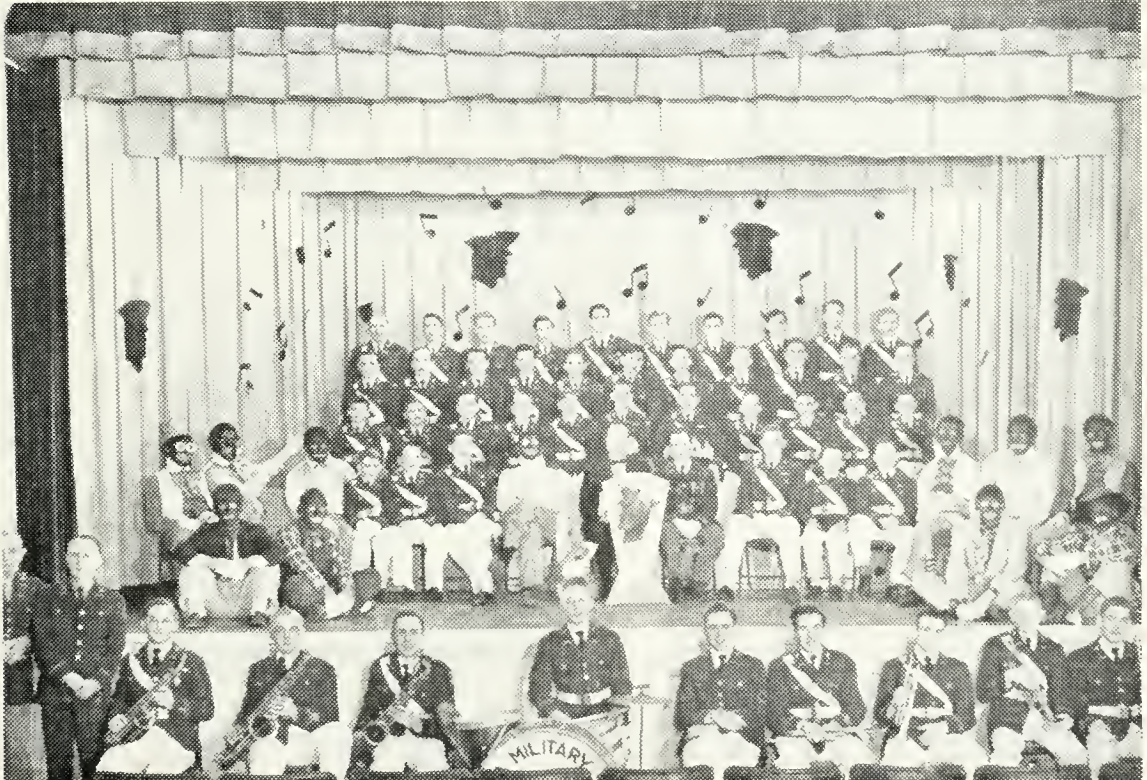
State of Illinois
Military and Naval Department
Springfield

18 April 1963

The Centennial Committee
Grand Prairie Seminary
Onarga Military School
318 East Seminary Avenue
Onarga, Illinois
Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a successful Centennial Celebration on October 5th and 6th, 1963.

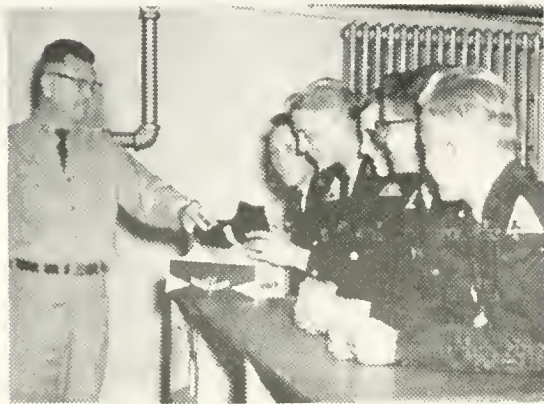
Since its founding, Onarga Military School with its system of close personal supervision and willing assistance for all boys, together with its modified



military training, has done a tremendous job in the development of strong character and high scholastic ability in its students.

May the years to come see a continuation of the high aims and principles of this fine School.

Sincerely,
Leo M. Boyle
Major General
The Adjutant General



General Assembly - State of Illinois
Samuel L. Martin
Senator 20th District
Watseka, Illinois

April 18, 1963

Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier
Editor Centennial Committee
334 East Lincoln
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Col. Frazier:

Thank you for your invitation to be present for the Grand Prairie Seminary - Onarga Military School Centennial program. I will be very happy to accept this invitation.

Sincerely,
Samuel L. Martin
State Senator

County Superintendent of Schools
Iroquois County
Watseka, Illinois

Brooks Courtright
Superintendent

April 15, 1963

T. M. Frazier
Lt. Col. Ill. N. G.
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Col. Frazier:

Congratulations upon reaching the rich, young age of 100. We are proud of the contribution to education made by the Grand Prairie Seminary - Onarga Military School during the past 100 years. Your institution has always been one of meritorious en-

deavors and high standards. We hope you will continue to operate for many more centuries.

Sincerely,
Brooks Courtright
County Superintendent
of Schools

North Central Association of Colleges
and Secondary Schools
Urbana, Illinois

Lowell B. Fisher
Chairman
Illinois State Committee

April 25, 1963

Colonel T. M. Frazier
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Colonel Frazier:

May I extend the greetings of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools to the Onarga Military School on this its Centennial celebration. The Onarga Military School has been accredited by the North Central Association since 1923. During that time it has served education faithfully and graduated many who have been outstanding and successful.

Please accept our best wishes for continued success and effective service to education.

Cordially,
Lowell B. Fisher
Chairman

Illinois High School Association
Chicago, Illinois

Albert Willis
Executive Secretary

April 22, 1963

Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier
Onarga Military School
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Col. Frazier:

In behalf of the Board of Directors and the members of the Illinois High School Association, I wish





to extend greetings and sincere best wishes for a most enjoyable Centennial Program.

For more than twenty years the Onarga Military School has been a member in good standing in the IHSA and during this period we have enjoyed excellent relationships with the school and its administrative authorities. The athletic teams and the non-athletic groups representing the school have achieved their share of victories and at all times have displayed good sportsmanship and have observed the ethics of competition. This speaks well for the students and their coaches and teachers.

With every good wish for a delightful Centennial Program.

Very truly yours,
Albert Willis
Executive Secretary

Northwestern University
Evanston - Chicago

Office of the President
Evanston, Illinois

April 24, 1963

Gentlemen:

I take pleasure in sending greetings and congratulations on behalf of Northwestern University to the

Grand Prairie Seminary - Onarga Military School on the occasion of the Centennial.

One hundred years of service is a record deserving both recognition and praise. I am pleased to have this opportunity to participate, by letter, in the ceremony concerning this achievement, and regret that I cannot be with you to participate more fully in this happy occasion.

Sincerely,
J. Roscoe Miller
President

The Methodist Church
The Illinois Area

Edwin Edgar Voigt
Resident Bishop

April 22, 1963

Lt. Colonel T. M. Frazier
Onarga, Illinois
My dear Colonel Frazier:

Thank you so much for your cordial invitation, under date of April 10, to attend the centennial program of Grand Prairie Seminary-Onarga Military School on October 5 and 6.

I would be delighted to attend this landmark in the history of the school. To have served, as well

as you have, for one hundred years is something to be noted and properly observed. I hope you have a wonderful program and that all your hopes for it will be splendidly realized.

For myself I have had an all-Illinois conference scheduled for those days since last year, and I do not feel that it will be possible for me to be absent from this project we have planned so far in advance.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

Edwin Edgar Voigt



Roosevelt Military Academy
Aledo, Illinois

9 May 1963

T. M. Frazier

Lt. Col., Ill. N.G.

Chairman, Centennial Committee

Onarga Military School

Onarga, Illinois:

Dear Colonel Frazier:

In behalf of the Trustees, Faculty and Cadets of Roosevelt Military Academy I send greetings to your fine school and our congratulations on this centennial occasion.

It has been my personal privilege and pleasure to have known and been closely associated with the Onarga officials for the past thirty-five years. In looking back over the one hundred years I'm sure there are many reasons in which you are all justly proud of Onarga and Grand Prairie Seminary. But the greatest pride and personal satisfaction any dedicated educator can have is to know that the graduates of that school have taken their places as fine, wholesome, responsible and successful citizens of our great country. I'm sure all associated with Onarga Military School have watched with pride the hundreds of graduates who have become such fine leaders and citizens.

May I wish your fine school many, many more years of success.

Cordially,

Glen G. Millikan
Colonel I.N.G.
Superintendent

Interboard Council Central Illinois Conference
of The Methodist Church
Bloomington, Illinois

Clifford C. Brown

Executive Director

May 8, 1963

Lieutenant Colonel T. M. Frazier

Onarga Military School

Onarga, Illinois

Dear Colonel Frazier:

The historical record of Grand Prairie Seminary and Business College which in later years has identified itself as Onarga Military School has a most unusual and impressive record. It has brought life and light to young men for three generations. It is unique not only for what it is today in building character for young men but even more for what it can yet become.

The principle motivation for Onarga Military School is in the belief that character is changed by establishing purpose and direction, establishing Christian ideals, and through controlled experiences in living. The norm by which this institution is judged is the end result as reflected in the individual lives of its students for "by their fruits Ye shall know them".

I congratulate you upon your fine history and contribution to the building of character as well as developing minds to meet the needs of this past century.

There are two ways in which this institution may face the future. It may like Hamlet lament that "the times are out of joint". It is possible to fasten one's attention on the difficulties of the day, thus get this reaction of the sick mind. Or, we may be



like Brooke who said, "Now God be thanked who has matched us with this hour".

Congratulations upon your past achievements and may God's richest blessings be upon the trustees, faculty and youth as you begin your second century of service.

Most sincerely yours,
Clifford C. Brown
Executive Director

Vermilion Valley Conference

Wilford A. Sanders
President

May 10, 1963

Col. T. M. Frazier, Editor
Onarga, Illinois
Dear Col. Frazier:

May we of the Vermilion Valley Conference of schools join the 1863-1963 centennial celebration for the Grand Prairie Seminary and the Onarga Military School.

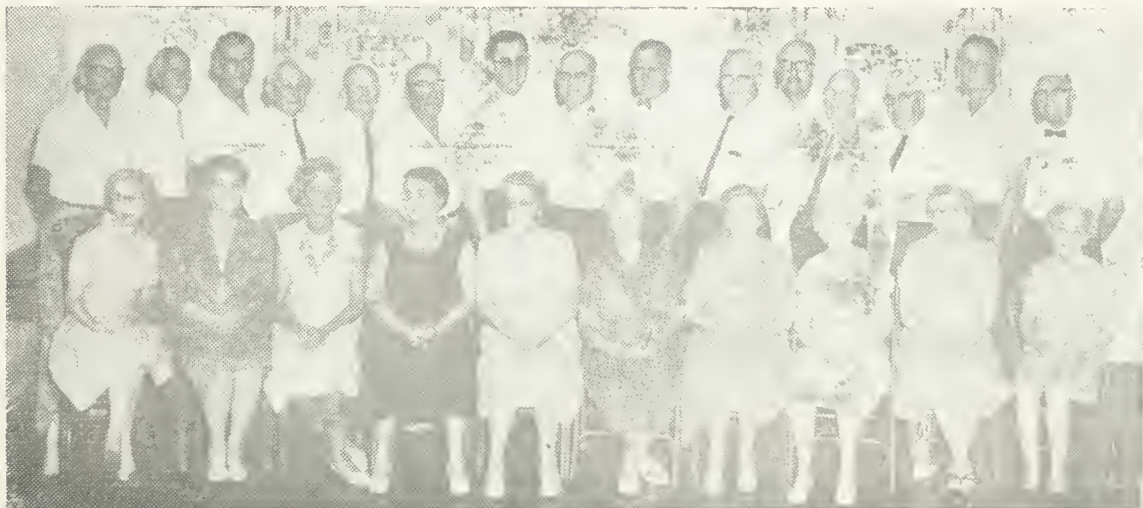
With pride and enthusiasm for the long enduring influence of the Grand Prairie Seminary, together with recognition of the current record of the Onarga Military School for quality education, we submit greetings and congratulations from the Vermilion Valley Conference. We are sure that the administrators, coaches and schools of Roberts-Thawville, Melvin Sibley, Gilman, Onarga Community, Chatsworth, Forrest, Cullom, Kempton, Reddick, Piper City, and Saunemin join most heartily and proudly in saluting our high respected member school — The Onarga Military School.

Very truly yours,
Wilford A. Sanders



Robert L. Cammack, Sr., '09

President G.P.S. Alumni



Front row, left to right: Mrs. G. B. Olson, Mrs. Rolland Knoche, Mrs. Robert E. Meyer, Mrs. William Weber, Miss Mae Weller, Mrs. John Wilken, Mrs. Robert L. Cammack, Mrs. M. L. Wright, Miss Marie Beardsley, Mrs. Laurimore Henry.

Second row, left to right: J. A. Stienecker, Major E. L. Davis, Major D. L. Reed, Floyd Johnson, Laurimore Henry, Robert L. Cammack, Kenneth Ingham, William Salmen, Charles H. Booth, Rev. John E. Genn, Dr. F. G. Yabsley, Charles H. Warnock, R. M. Wheeler, Perry Price, Lt. Col. T. M. Frazier.



EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS FROM ALUMNI

From a letter by Arthur V. Essington '09

I have a vivid memory of G.P.S. inasmuch as three of the best teachers I ever had in my life were stationed there.

Miss Grace Gilbert took the young lad from the country and made him feel that he could do anything so far as speaking was concerned so that by the time I was in my senior year I was able to capture the interscholastic oratorical contest at Lake Forest Academy.

I also remember Mrs. Isaacson who taught Roman history and German so efficiently and interestingly that when I got to the university I knew more about the subjects than most of the kids from large high schools.

I also remember our coach, Professor Allen, who taught me all I know about the laws of physics.

Several honors have come to me since I graduated from the university. I have been a member of the Pardon and Parole Board of the State of Illinois, Corporation Counsel of the City of Rockford, and at the present time I am a Judge of our Circuit Court, which duty I enjoy very much.

From a letter from William L. Irvin '15

After graduating from Grand Prairie Seminary in 1916, I entered Northwestern University, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1920. My diploma states that it was granted "With highest distinction", and I was made a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Meanwhile, from May to December, 1918, I was in the army, obtaining a commission as second lieutenant, infantry, from the Officers' training school at Camp Gordon, Georgia, but never went overseas.

In September 1920, I entered Harvard Law School on the Bobb Scholarship from Illinois, and graduated with an LL.B degree in 1923. Then I was employed in the law office of a former Harvard Law School graduate in Broken Bow, Nebraska, which was the fourth largest county in Nebraska in point of population. After two years, I opened my own law office there. From 1926 to 1929, I was city attorney of Broken Bow. Then I came to Washington, D.C., to be with the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Senator Norris of Nebraska was chairman. In 1934, I left the committee and became an attorney in the United States Accounting Office, of which the Comptroller General of the

United States is the head. In 1937, I took a position as assistant manager of legal research in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington D.C. After two years in that position I returned to the General Accounting Office in 1939 and remained there as an attorney until the spring of 1962. Then I retired from government service and have been associated with a law firm which has an office here in Gaithersburg and also an office in Washington.

* * * *

From a letter of Charles Wendell David '05

After graduation from GPS, I went to Northwestern University for three years and then went on to Oxford, as you know, on a Rhodes Scholarship, studying modern history (B.A. Oxford 1911). Returning from England in 1911, I continued my work as a graduate student in history, first at Wisconsin (M.A. degree 1912) and at Harvard (PhD 1918). While on the subject of degrees I may add that I was awarded an honorary Litt D by the University of Pennsylvania in 1955.

My first important teaching position was in the University of Washington (Seattle) from 1915 to 1918. I went to Bryn Manor College as Associate Professor in the autumn of 1918 and remained there for 28 years, rising to the headship of the Department of History and the holder of an endowed professorship. However, because of a growing interest in the problem of research libraries, I began to reduce my commitments at Bryn Manor in 1940 and went to the University of Pennsylvania as Professor of History and Director of Libraries. You will see that for several years I combined two jobs, one at Bryn Manor and one at Penn.

I held the position at the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years, until I reached formal retirement for age in June 1955. Thereafter I became Director of the Longwood Library at Kennett Square, Pa., a duPont project for the establishment of a research library in industrial history which should have the DuPont family and company records as its central core. In due course this was restudied and expanded and moved into a new building on the property of the original DuPont Company at Greenville, Delaware, in the outskirts of Wilmington. The new institution was renamed Mills Historical Library.

* * * *



From a letter of Charles Wendell David

Having got the new library so to say "over the top", I retired as Director at the end of December 1961. This was for a short time however, for in June 1962 I accepted another short-term assignment as as assistant to the President and Director of Library Development, The Marine Historical Association (more commonly known as Mystic Seaport), Mystic, Connecticut. Here the problem is to plan and develop a research library in American Maritime History, assemble a competent staff, and plan a new library building and get it erected and the collections moved into it. We suppose this will require something like 2 to 2½ years more. This will surely be my last important job since old age will inevitably overtake me.

In the fields of historical research and librarianship I have done a good bit of writing. The following titles may be mentioned.

Robert Curthose, Duke of Normandy, 1920

The Conquest of Lisbon, 1936

Journey to France and Spain, 1801,
by Victor Marie du Pont, 1961

Planning the University Library Building
(with John E. Burchard and Julian P.
Boyd) 1949.

As to more personal things I may say that in 1918 I married Mary Virginia Martin of Oakland, California who died in 1936 and by whom I had no children. In 1939 I married Margaret Simpson of Columbus, New Jersey. We have two children, Charles Newbold, now a graduate student in biology in Germany, and George Alfred Lawrence, still a Harvard undergraduate.

So far as I know I am still in good health and vigor, notwithstanding my years.

* * * *

From letter from Frank L. Brooke, class of 1905

It was a delight to receive the notification of the combined reunion of G.P.S. and O.M.S. members to be held in Onarga in October. The thought of it brings back many pleasant memories of days, students, and faculty members in the early part of the century. I was permitted to leave in April to accept a position at Culver Military Academy, but was permitted to "get under the wire" and receive my diploma with the class of '05.

To me it is pleasant to recall a good many members of the Class, which included: Wendell David, Geneva Gish, Ed Bond, Roscoe Buckholtz, (my best friend - Victor Ernest Ilahi-Baksh, who I am pretty sure never learned the German pronunciation of 'prunes'), Albertine Larson, William Lukens, Art Meents, Jake Oltman, Herb Singleton, Clara Harroun, Maude Hasbrouck, Lottie King, Amy Amidon,

Ida Brown, cute Joe Carpenter, John Dawson, Earl De Lay, Dick Franklin, Elma Lane, Bob Morel, Carl Muchlenpfoltdt, George Spear, Rudolph Swenson, Eli Swisher, Hilda Campbell, Hazel Eversole, Mildred Greene, Eva Brown, Lula Caveney, Orana Smart, Grace Switzer. Edna Hayes of Culver attended GPS ahead of me, became a physician and for many years was connected with a children's home in Northern Illinois. She is now retired. A letter addressed to her here would be forwarded.

Good old Prof. Van was always anxious to "place" any of his boys wherever and whenever he could. I know many of them made good. Rollo Hutchison, who was at GPS much earlier than I (who was the first secretary employed at Culver), contacted Prof. Van, who in turn asked me to accept the position open at Culver, which I did on a temporary basis. That "temporary" basis lasted nearly 40 years. I was the second "secretary" from GPS at Culver, later, Charles Warnock, and the late Ray Marshal joined us. Already here was "Cap" John F. Grant, formerly an instructor at GPS, heading the commercial department at Culver. He is now retired and living, I believe in Columbus, Indiana.

Rollo Hutchison is the only GPS living ex-student that I know the whereabouts of. He is a widower, nearly blind, retired and living in Chicago. I see him several times a year when he comes down to his Culver home. I am very fond of him. I attended the 50th reunion of my class, and Hutch and his wife were there with Mrs. Brooke and myself.

As for suggestions regarding the reunion itself, I of course feel that it should be well organized and that a definite effort be made in some way for old GPS people to meet. Apparently this was not done at my 50th reunion, and we sat around, feeling more or less lost. I did make every effort to speak to as many as I could, hoping to find someone I once knew, and in that was slightly successful. It's a difficult matter to handle, I know. The things already outlined seem good and promising of a fine get-together.

It is good to know that more complete information will be sent out in advance of the October dates. Whether I shall be able to attend will depend on the state of Mrs. Brooke's health. I do not know whether what I have written in any wise is acceptable. Just off hand I do not seem to be able to lay hands on photographs or clippings which might be of interest. I am very happy, however, that the name of Grand Prairie Seminary will be perpetuated, and in some manner the names of such notable educators as Stephen D. Van Benthuyssen.

In conclusion, I should like very much to extend greetings to any who happened to be present at the time I was a student. Life there was good and stimulative.

*Excerpt from letter written by Mrs. Mary Sellick
(Mary Lois Raymond, '90?)*

"...I came from Woodland, Ill. and spent the years 1884-1887 at Grand Prairie Seminary... Dr. McClish was President and Dr. Van Pelt was pastor of the Methodist Church... I still give readings and belong to the writing class, although I am not a very gifted writer."

Editor's note. The clipping that accompanied the letter contained a poem written by Mrs. Sellick, who has celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday. It is called "Live Simply with Faith". Mrs. Sellick worked for many years as a deaconess in Spokane, Washington, taught a class of 80 women at First Church, San Diego, Cal., and is now living in Frederica Manor, Chula Vista.

* * * *

From a letter written by Thomas H. Wand ('08)

I regret very much that I cannot attend the One Hundredth Anniversary of good old G.P.S. and O.M.S. Walter and I spent two very happy years at G.P.S. We loved the atmosphere, tradition, and the people who actually participated in the affairs of the school. ... We both lettered in football, basketball, track, and baseball. It seems odd now, but we had to wear baseball uniforms while we played basketball. However, in track we were permitted to wear track suits.

One winter the old athletic field south of town froze over, and we enjoyed six weeks of skating, with attendant wieners, coffee, and bon fires... I have always felt that G.P.S. gave its students much more than academic learning. There was a great moral lift to all who attended the school. Hundreds of graduates have gone out into the world and have made their mark in all lines of endeavor, primarily because of their years at G.P.S.

Editor's note: The writer of the above letter received the Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award at Paonia, Colorado. He is also the only man in the annals of University of Washington athletic history to have been given the cherished Flarety Medal in Football on two occasions.

* * * *

Letter from Robert Brewer '39

"...I seem to be progressing well, and if all goes well will be able to return to work for short periods about the middle of July. I naturally feel very fortunate to be progressing so well in the face of the seriousness of the coronary. They called Mary over the afternoon I went to the hospital as they thought they were losing me. Naturally I've lost weight and feel better for it. ... Hope to see you at the Centennial Homecoming this fall.

Editor's note. Good luck, Bob, and a speedy and complete recovery. Friends and classmates who would like to write to Bob may address him at 354 N. Delaplaine Road, Riversidé, Ill.

HORACE G. SMITH, '99

My early life was cast in Central Illinois where I attended a small rural school and the Methodist Church. From there I went to Grand Prairie Seminary at Onarga, Illinois and thence to Northwestern. After graduation from the University in 1905, I spent two years there as college Y.M.C.A. secretary and then completed my Divinity work at Garrett in 1910, having spent one year of study at Boston University. As far as honorary degrees are concerned, I have a D.D. from Northwestern, LL.D. from Simpson and DePauw and L.H.D. from Boston.

My actual service as a Methodist minister involves three pastorates, one at Glencoe, one at Hemenway Church, Evanston, and the other at Wilmette. In each case a new construction is at least one memorial of my pastorate, although I count this not the best part of my ministry. In between the Evanston and Wilmette pastorates I spent two years as Superintendent of the Chicago Western District.

The Rock River Conference has elected me to six General Conferences and the Uniting Conference of 1939. For a quadrennium beginning in 1928, I was a member of the Board of Education, serving for eight years as secretary. For a quarter of a century I served on the Chicago Missionary Candidate Committee - acting as chairman for 15 years. For two terms, I served as President of the Methodist Theological Association.

In 1932 I accepted the presidency of Garrett Biblical Institute and served there continuously until 1953. Preceding my election I had been a trustee for eight years and had done some teaching annually for the same period of time.

Since my retirement from the presidency of Garrett we have travelled widely including two trips to Europe and the Holy Land as well as one to Hawaii. In the home land we have driven East, West, and South to the extent of 70,000 miles in the last five years.

I am a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a founder and charter member of Delta Sigma Rho and the University Club and of Rotary in Evanston. As trustee, I have served Bennett College, Chicago Training School, and the Chicago Temple.

Retirement has given me opportunity for wide reading and the chance to put in writing form two family histories as well as a large group of essays. Several of these have been published and others will be soon. So far, I have spoken on an average of 30 times a year.

Mrs. Smith, Edith Gorsuch, of Clarence, Illinois at G.P.S. '97-'99, keeps busy with Bryant Society, Faculty Wives meetings, P.E.O., Church activities and the University Guild. She and I have created and shared a happy home life in the parsonage and in the president's home and now live happily in a small apartment. There are three daughters with homes of their own in which they are bringing up

our eight "miracle grandchildren". At present we live in happy retirement at 2604 Bennett Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.

A MEMBER of the Class of '99 RECALLS

By Horace G. Smith

When I first heard of a celebration of the centennial of the founding of Grand Prairie Seminary, I did two things. To begin with, I assembled all the keepsakes I had cherished as mementoes of my own student days. Then I gave my memory free rein and allowed it to wander as it would to see what it would recall from those magic years of '96 to '99. I have been surprised at the results of both efforts.

Among other things, I found my diploma indicating that I graduated from the College Preparatory Course. Evidently I had kept it along with a diploma from the grade school and a certificate allowing me to teach. Clearly I did not cast it out when I received a college diploma or one from a graduate school. Not even receipt of four honorary degrees robbed this academic recognition of its place of honor. This diploma is signed by the president and all the members of the faculty of that day. Unfortunately it could not include all my teachers for many of them had changed during my brief stay. The rapid change in faculty personnel indicates the financial and enrollment problems the school was facing even then. More may be said about teachers later.

Along with my diploma, I found a faded copy of what was called "The Commencement Exercises" held June 8, 1899. It contained the names of eighteen graduates from the Academic Department and ten from the Commercial. I am happy to report that as I read over these names, I could recall something specific about nearly each and every one. In fact, I was able to hold something like a class reunion "in absentia". The program included four musical selections and seven orations, the latter given by members of the class selected by the faculty.

The themes of those orations are worthy of note. Two were, I think, more typical of such occasions than the others. One bore the title "Watchman What of the Night" and the other, just one word "Expansion". The man giving this latter oration wrote also the class poem which was printed in full on the back page. The other orations carried a patriotic note. One was entitled "The Federal Constitution", the others - "Charles Sumner", "Thomas Paine", "William Gladstone" and "John Randolph". The last constituted my own contribution and to my amazement part of it remains intact in my files.

My recollection of that day, however, has little to do with the otherwise important matters. While I was speaking an old fashioned dumbbell was blown by the wind from a window sill and landed on the

grandpiano. From there it rolled across the top and fell on the key board. After sounding various notes, it descended to the seat, rolled slowly across that, and thence to the floor. While I have spoken literally thousands of times since then, that harrowing experience has never been duplicated.

Among these tokens, I found our class pin. It is in the form of a wreath signifying victory, I presume. A three cornered heraldic design is affixed to this wreath and according to the symbolism of that day suggested the completeness of the three fold life. On this shield appear the letters G.P.S. and the numerals '99. On checking with two grandsons who graduate from high school this year, I find that class pins are out of style but I am glad we had one. It meant much to me during most of the senior year as we were entitled to wear such an emblem.

If any serious effort is made to establish a collection of such trophies I would be glad to contribute this and other reminders of the past. Two things, I have missed which I hope others will supply. I could not find the class yell or the class song. The first is unimportant but the second meant much to me as sung to the tune of "Maryland".

Another trophy of that bygone day showed up in the form of a small magnifying glass with two lenses so that three combinations are possible. It was probably purchased for use in the course on botany and has been inconstant use for the last fifty years. Our own three girls treated it as something magical and their eight children have in turn found it of perennial interest. Once in a while in these latter days it has helped eyes grown dim by age to master small print.

Reference to the course in Botany reminds me of the kindling enthusiasm of the man who taught this course and one in chemistry. While it would be unfair to call him by name and leave others out I must confess that he had a *native gift* for teaching that few practitioners of that are possessed. He was as they say "to the manor born". He and a few of the others had what William James said was necessary to make a man an "Ideal teacher". Such men are the heart of any faculty and give significance to the school in which they teach.

Incidentally, that course in botany proved to be one of the most stimulating I ever took in all my years of formal study. For one thing it called for the preparation of a substantial herbarium. I still remember my search for and discovery of the coveted blood root. I do recall my persuasive effort to induce a lady to give me just one prong from her treasured maiden hair fern. She did but reluctantly and I hope was rewarded with the knowledge that "it is more blessed to give than to receive".

The herbarium has long since deteriorated and been discarded but the interest engendered in spring flowers still abides. Almost every year since then,

I have made at least one pilgrimage to the wooded area to renew my acquaintance with trillium and all the other spring beauties. Within the month, I have gone with Mrs. Smith who was in those days Edith Gorsuch, to the forest preserve nearby to locate and identify the flowers about which we learned in the class in botany.

Reference to Edith Gorsuch recalls an incident that reveals the unique quality of many of the teachers we had at G.P.S. When she and I came to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary in 1959, it was reported in the alumni journal of Northwestern from which University both of us graduated. As a result of this note we received a nice letter from one who had been our teacher at Onarga. We had not seen her or been in touch with her during the sixty years that had elapsed but she said that she had followed us through the years by references in the Alumni Journal so that she knew where we had been and what we had done. This continued interest after more than half a century is significant. It is typical of the teacher who is interested more in the student than in the subject taught. Of such teachers is the kingdom of heaven so far as education is concerned and we had a fair quota of them for our guidance.

Just to make sure that student life was not dull or monotonous in those days, let me relate one incident that happened on the first Sunday I spent in Onarga. After breakfast a group of boys walked up to the cemetery which then had a hitching rack made up of a log chain run through a hole in a series of stone posts. Without thinking of what we were doing several of us sat down next to the last post. Our combined weight was too much for the brittle stone and it snapped off just above the ground. Needless to say we took French leave. Had a spectral voice from within the cemetery spoken we would not have departed more quickly. The caretaker took the shortened stone and reset it near the one next in line and there it stands to this day. In driving through the town, I always detour by the cemetery just to make sure that this trophy of my presence in 1896 still remains. I could wish that other lessons learned there in those days had the power to continue and abide.

* * * *

A CENTENNIAL TRIBUTE from the Class of '10

By J. A. Barner '10

A feeling of humility comes as I begin to set thoughts on paper for this Centennial Observance.

I do not share the sentiments sometimes expressed that just to have existed for a hundred years is nothing to be proud of. Even a tree that has lived a hundred years has weathered the storms, and thus indicates an inherent virility that was not possessed by its erstwhile neighbors that went down

with the storm or succumbed to disease. A Century ago the Civil War was in its enigmatic middle stages. Neither side could have been sure of its outcome. To have lifted its head above the conflict of those turbulent days and to have survived the subsequent shocks of war and disaster and depression, reveals a ruggedness of character and tenacity of purpose that demand the highest tribute that we, who have shared in the benefits so generously given, can bring as we celebrate this centennial.

Certain it is that those of us who were fortunate seekers after the Truth at about the half century mark at G.P.S. were aware that a foundation of granite embracing the Love of Our Creator and cemented together by the teachings and example of the Fisherman of Galilee were there for our benefit and the everlasting honor of the school. Men are just as good or bad as they are taught to be. While the times and educational needs of the day decreed a change in the physical make up of the school a short time after many of us had gone out into the world to make use of what had been learned, it seems that the same high standards have carried over into the new regime. It is most plain that the good citizens of Onarga and the Methodists of that Community have accomplished their duty to the utmost. To that group who have carried on the work of an Alumni organization so well a hearty thank you from those of us who have been so far away. The lessons learned in the study groups, in classes, on the playing fields and not to be for-

gotten the fraternal times among fellow students leave all of us with much to be grateful for.

Yesterday is still with us, and no one should know better than we of Grand Prairie Seminary who recognize the worth of timeless virtues, and give stability to the innovation by always squaring it with long established custom. We must believe that these times in which we live are as perilous as those days in which G.P.S. came into being.

The outlook for men and women who have had the training and experience as a force in civic and social affairs was perhaps never more inviting than the present. The application of the principles learned at G.P.S. are sorely needed in the everyday walks of life NOW. This demand should be met and recognized. The day is past when men in any society will be satisfied to rest on the laurels of past achievement.

He who lives his God most devoutly, regards the rights and interests of his fellow men most conscientiously, cultivates his moral and social qualities most successfully, who governs himself most scrupulously and practices charity with prudence. He it is that learned his lesson best at G.P.S. and profited most at the hands of a faculty that all of us must appreciate more as the years have gone by.

Be just and fear not,
Let all the ends thou aim at,
Be Thy Country's
Thy God's and Truth's

(Author Unknown)





SOME CHRONOLOGICAL NUGGETS

GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY

(Excerpts - Leader & Review, July 1, 1954,
Village of Onarga)

(Centennial issue by C. H. Warnock with
credit to Beckwith's History
of Iroquois County

1834. First settlers along Spring Creek on old Indian Trail from Fort Dearborn to St. Louis via Bunkum Trading Post (Watseka).

1836. First school was organized and two years later had 20 scholars.

1843. A long school house was built and some classes were still held in 5 or 6 private homes.

1856. The Best church in Iroquois County was built in Onarga. With homes, schools, churches, lodges, business houses, a library and even a newspaper carved out of the wilderness in less than 30 years; these hardy and inspired leaders turned their heads and hearts towards creating better educational facilities.

1863. June 10th - an educational convention of Middleport District met in Onarga with Rev. P. T. Rhodes in charge, and representatives from Kankakee, Watseka, Chatsworth, Buckley, etc., each boasting his home town. The Onarga ladies plied them with wonderful food, and "large saucers heaped with the flushing fruit (strawberries) peeping thru creamy veils". The ladies and especially the strawberries won - so the story goes - and the report "surely Onarga is a goodly town. Yea our sons and our daughters shall go thither and learn wisdom". The vote - Onarga 13 out of 22.

The name of Grand Prairie Seminary was chosen and a Board of Trustees elected.

Among the first trustees were P. T. Rhodes, Ransom B. Pangborn, Samuel H. Harper, Winslow Woods of Onarga and Wm. G. Riggs of Buckley.

Oct. 1st - School was opened in the M. E. Church and shortly afterward a building 14x40x9 feet was erected on the church lot and used until the seminary was completed.

Rev. G. W. Gray was elected principal and his wife professor of languages and natural sciences. In April 1864 - commercial science, instrumental music, German, Commercial law and a primary department were added. Mrs. Sarah Marston retained as preceptress.

1864. Local citizens raised \$7,000 and a 40x60 three story building was begun that summer. First Catalog listing 136 students.

1867. A colored man applied for admission, the faculty accepted it, but some opposition appeared and the matter went to the Board which sustained the faculty's decision.

1868. It was officially decided to admit colored students. D. K. Pierson of Chicago offered \$500 towards a library if a matching sum was raised.

1869. \$1,000 was added to the library.

1872. With great effort subscriptions for \$22,026.50 were obtained to start an endowment fund, but due to hard times - it shrank to \$16,500 which was safely invested. A number of new courses were added, French, Latin, Greek, etc.

1878. Music always had a prominent place in the school and G. Frank Page was appointed in charge. He had recently completed a two years course in Leipzig, Germany.

1880. A separate building was prepared for music and the Congregational church was leased for a term of years. Six pianos and one large Pipe organ were in use and the vocal department was also enlarged and improved. Total number of students 327.

A 178 page book was published - covering the activities of Commencement. (Before linotype - so hand set.)

1880. An active Alumni Ass'n was formed about that year and eighty-two years later - Sept. 1962 - one hundred alumni and friends attended the annual banquet in Onarga.

Religious training played a very important part in school life and had untold influence in building outstanding character. Literary

societies were also an important feature. The Chrestomathean organized in 1863 and the Athenecum ten years later and several others. Debates and oratorical contests were frequent. A "Lecture Course" presented outstanding entertainment, rarely found outside of the largest cities. Madame Schumann Heink, Dr. Gunsalius and the Philadelphia orchestra are only a few of the programs presented.

In addition the school music department provided a great deal of high class entertainment. The various athletic teams contributed their share not only to the activities of the student body but also built a high place in the sports world. Among many other fine achievements of the Seminary - an exceptionally fine school paper - The Seminary Breeze deserves special mention.

1888. "The Ladies Boarding Hall" was constructed - "finished in modern style, with commodious rooms supplied with heavy furniture and heated with steam". (catalog) It was 72x36 feet with rooms for 60 women at 40c to 60c per week and meals at \$2.00 per week. It was a great help to the big problems of housing and feeding some 300 students in private homes.

1892. A brick and stone building 48x78 feet was erected, two stories high - and the "conservatory" was recognized as one of the finest in the state. Besides the music, art and societies rooms, the chapel would seat 700. The Seminary now ranked 4th in the educational field for schools of this type and bridged the gap between home schools and colleges.

1894. TOTAL REGISTRATION 413

1900. So far, the people of Onarga, friends of the school and the Methodist Conference had carried the financial load. Plans were made to raise a \$100,000 endowment fund. By many it was considered an extravagant and impossible dream. But Hon. W. A. Rankin of Onarga sparked the program with a \$25,000 donation and the gigantic task was completed in 1900.

1901. G.P.S. was affiliated with Northwestern University and Military Drill was introduced. "A jacket, cap and trousers could be made to

order for \$10.50 - equal in quality to any store suit costing \$16.00" (Catalog).

1894. An effort was made to raise \$40,000 to replace the original "Recitation Hall" but was unsuccessful.

1907. The executive committee of the Board of Trustees accepted a proposition submitted by C. H. Warnock to raise \$5,000 for a gymnasium and authorized him to proceed.

1908. The new gymnasium, costing about \$10,000 with the lot was constructed and an athletic field was acquired and improved.

Various gifts and bequests were received over the years such as \$15,000 from Dr. Ward, a large farm from the Bunnell state, \$20,000 from D. K. Pearson and \$1,200 from Dr. Harvey to mention only a few.

1912. The Trustees raised \$10,000 to match a like amount from Mr. Rankin to wipe out indebtedness. Talk was started towards raising another \$125,000 for a new Recitation Hall, a boys' dormitory and a central heating plant.

1914. Mr. Rankin offered \$50,000 if the school would raise \$100,000. The history of that program would fill a book, climaxed with a Happy Ending.

1917. World War I was started and many changes in the educational field forced a re-appraisal of the status of G.P.S. by the Board of Trustees. The rapid growth of accredited high schools greatly contributed to the decreasing number of students at G.P.S. The Board and the school - faced their darkest hour after 55 years.

1918. The Board voted to change to a boys' school with Military and Physical training. Mr. H. M. Karr was employed as Superintendent.

1919-Col. J. E. Bittinger and his two sons, Lyle and Leigh, took over the operation of the school, renamed - The Onarga Military School, under a lease contract.

1919-20. The starting enrollment was only 25 cadets.

1920-21. This number was doubled and the 3rd year, O.M.S. opened with 76 students. This

was a tremendous achievement in the face of post-war conditions and changed program.

1920-21. Capt. E. L. Davis joined the staff as Science teacher.

1921. The old "Recreation Hall" burned and was replaced with a modern building and an addition was built on the dormitory. The 2nd Rankin House was remodeled for quarters. Capt. T. M. Frazier joined the staff as English teacher and head coach of all sports. First football team formed. Five seniors graduated.

1922-23. Nine seniors graduated. Football record: Won 5, lost 1, tied 2. Track team entered in national meet at Stagg Field. Capt. Frazier goes to M.M.I., Germantown, Ohio.

1923-24. Captain Ludwick, Leahy, and Stienecker join staff.

The Methodist church lot was acquired thus completing the full block for O.M.S. Campus.

1925-26. O.M.S. wins 3rd place in National Academy Basketball Tournament at Madison, Wisconsin.

1926-27. O.M.S. becomes a charter member of Mid-West Prep. School Conference. Other members: Wayland Academy, Morgan Park Military Academy, Elgin Academy, and St. Alban's School. Enrollment 104.

1933. The "Auditorium" burned and was replaced with a beautiful modern building.

1938. An indoor swimming pool and an addition were added to the old Gymnasium, at a cost of \$55,000.

Col. J. E. Bittinger retired as active head of O.M.S. but continued a close association with the school for several years.

1941. The total enrollment reached full capacity of the school plant and numbered 126 cadets.

Major Leigh Bittinger resigned from the school to become Ass't Director of Selective Service during W.W. II.

Death of Gen. J. E. Bittinger. One of Capt. Stienecker's best Rifle teams. "Red Grange" speaker at football banquet.

1942. Capt. Greer retired. Seventeen seniors graduated. Mother Holtzman, school nurse, leaves O.M.S.

1943-44. Capt. Stienecker promoted to Major.

1944-45. Capt. Frazier becomes Principal; Capt. Ludwick Ass't Superintendent.

1945-46. Mrs. Lily Oakes named school nurse. Honor Roll dedicated to eleven O.M.S. men who gave their lives for their country. Capt. Reed joins staff. Capt. Greer died - having retired several years previous.

1946-47. Capt. Ludwick promoted to Lt. Col. Capt. Davis and Capt. Frazier promoted to Major. Hedges, Kreft, and Yoder win firsts in State Music Contests. Top enrollment - 135 cadets. Lamb, Krabbe, and Liska qualify for State Track Meet.

1947-48. Basketball team goes to Sectional. Lamb, State Champion in the mile. Higgins and Avery - first doubles tennis team to go to State tournament. Rifle team undefeated. Battalion parades in Danville on Preparedness Day.

1951. Lt. Col. C. H. Ludwick, Assistant to Col. Lyle Bittinger in the operation of the school - died suddenly.

1952. Capt. M. L. Wright retired and Col. L. E. Adams joined staff.

1953. Col. Lyle Bittinger retired after 33 years at O.M.S. and Col. L. E. Adams was named Superintendent that fall, assisted by Frazier, Davis, Stienecker and Reed.

1957. Capt. P. A. Homer died having retired in 1952.

1958. Major Stienecker retired.



1906 - 1963. Mrs. Belle Anderson for most of 57 years - has been an invaluable member of the GPS and OMIS staff whether so classified or not and still reigns as Queen Supreme in the kitchen and dining room of O.M.S.

1863 - CENTENNIAL . . .

Saturday, October 5th

10:00 A.M. REGISTRATION
Auditorium

11:30 A.M. LUNCHEON
(Buffet Style) - Auditorium

2:00 P.M. CENTENNIAL PARADE
Floats - Bands - Contests - Prizes
Main Street

3:30 P.M.
Bowling Whaleys
Golf Spring Creek Country Club
Display and Exhibit of Mementoes
and Social - Reunions Old Gym

6:30 P.M. CENTENNIAL BANQUET
Methodist Church

9:15 P.M. CENTENNIAL DANCE & PARTY
Legion Hall
Social Hour - Reunions — Old Gym

. . . PROGRAM - 1963

Sunday, October 6th

8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. . . . BREAKFAST
Legion Hall

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. — CHURCH of Your Choice

12:00 P.M. OUTDOOR BEEF & CHICKEN ROAST

1:30 P.M.

GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY ALUMNI
Business Meeting - Legion Hall

ONARGA MILITARY SCHOOL ALUMNI
Business Meeting - Auditorium

2:30 P.M. . . . CENTENNIAL CONCERT
“The Aristocrats of Song”
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4:00 P.M.

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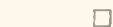
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The GPS Board especially appreciates the work of the Centennial Committee, Civic Organizations, Churches, and the efforts of all the fine people who gave of their time to make this a historic and remembered occasion.



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